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The Flint Hills of Kansas

BY THEODORE W. MORSE

GEOLOGISTS might take exception to the location I give for the great pasture region known as the Flint Hills of Kansas, but I am talking of the "hills" from the standpoint of the cattlemen, in whose business they also are an institution as well as a region. For the cattle business of the country has come to be a thing of many stages, involving a life-cycle starting with the breeding-ranges as far away as El Paso and ending in the abattoirs on the banks of Lake Michigan. Ranges, railways, stock-yards, feed-lots, banks, and packing-houses serve the steer and his forebears until the beefsteak stage is reached; and in all this chain of institutions the Flint Hills of Kansas constitute one of the most important and efficient links.

Region Embracing Ten Counties

Ten Kansas counties lie partly or wholly within the Flint Hills region, which is bounded on the east and west approximately by the ninety-sixth and ninety-seventh meridians, on the south by the sandstone and shale lands near the south Kansas line, and on the north by the valley of the Kaw. This region, 55 miles east and west by 130 miles north and south, includes the main pasture areas of the following counties (some of which every cattleman has in mind when he refers to the Flint Hills): Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Cowley, Elk, Greenwood, Lyon, Marion, Morris, and Wabaunsee. Fringes of this pasture area extend slightly into other counties, but, to outline it as a region, one will find himself keeping very closely to the approximate parallelogram I have described.

The combined area of the ten counties named is about 5,800,000 acres. Of this about two and a half millions of acres are almost solid pasture land, wearing the same sod that the bison trampled long before

the events which inspired Emerson Hough's great story of the cattle trail, "North of 36." The grass of these pastures is the same "bluestem" which first explorers found growing horseback-high, and which, although its growth is now less, has proved the greatest summer feed of the plains country. As stated by "Joe" Mercer, secretary of the Kansas Live Stock Association and head of the state's live-stock sanitary work, "I have fed cattle for thirty years, but never have found a feed or combination of feeds that would put as many pounds of beef on a steer between May 15 and October 1 as good bluestem pasture."

Flint Hills Market One-Third of State's Cattle

Your casual reader or observer will tell you that western Kansas is the state's cattle-raising section; yet here in the eastern third of the state, in approximately one-tenth of the state's area, is a region from which annually are sent one-third of the state's shipments to the cattle markets. It hardly would be correct, however, to say that such a proportion is produced in the Flint Hills. More than half their summer cattle population is bred elsewhere, and shipped in to make growth and flesh from this matchless summer grazing. It is this very feature of the business that has won for the Flint Hills their widest fame. To the Gulf and the Rio Grande on the south, to the Rocky Mountains on the west, to the feed-lots and markets of the Mississippi Valley and the Great Lakes, cattlemen know and talk the Flint Hills of Kansas, although the rest of the state may be *terra incognita* to them.

In summer the Flint Hills carry about 500,000 cattle, or about one-third of the cattle in the state. The western half carries about an equal number, and the remaining forty-one counties of the eastern half carry



ON THE "HILLS" OF BUTLER COUNTY

Group from "Resident Breeding Herd" of Registered Herefords Belonging to R. H. Hazlett

the remainder. More than half of the Flint Hills' half a million are shipped in during the spring. The movement is in full blast early in May, as the full pasture season is supposed to start May 15. The shipped-in cattle come chiefly from the breeding-ranges of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, and western or southwestern Kansas. This year, owing to good pasture on most winter ranges, the movement was a little late. It also was reported a little light, but railroad records showed as many cars brought in as ever. As the cattle ran heavier than usual, there was perhaps a slight discrepancy in numbers, due to fewer animals per car.

Hills Famous for Their Hereford Herds

The remainder—slightly less than half—of the summer herds are driven in from near-by areas, or are resident herds, some of the pasture-owners maintaining big breeding and feeding establishments, depending for much of their winter feed on the abundant production from the valleys of limestone soil which fringe and penetrate the pasture lands. In this class of pasture-owners are many of the state's most valued citizens, whose effort (and sometimes sacrifice) in maintaining pure-bred cattle for parts of their herds has contributed, through improvement, vastly to the cattle wealth. In fact, the Hereford herds of the Flint Hills and of the continuing ranges north of the Kaw Valley long have constituted this breed's greatest pure-bred strength in Kansas.

Of the cattle shipped in, about two-thirds are carried by the Santa Fe Railroad, the Rock Island, Missouri Pacific, and M. K. & T. dividing the rest. It is estimated that the Santa Fe gets even more than two-thirds when the movement to market begins. It is proverbial that more cattle sense has gone into the locating and management of the Santa Fe lines than into those of any other system penetrating the Southwest. Recently this road completed a fifty-mile link of its heaviest construction right through the Flint Hills pastures, touching inland points like Cassody, Bazaar, and Matfield Green—long famous for the pastures surrounding them.

Great Marketward Movement

Great as is the movement of cattle in, the movement out is greater, although not nearly so noticeable because it is distributed over a considerably longer period. From July to January, 380,000 cattle are shipped out to market, or fully a third of the number which the state markets during that time. This movement helps to give Kansas City her "world's greatest feeder market," although, of course, a great bulk of the Flint Hills cattle go, grass-fat, direct to slaughter. Normally marketing starts rather late in July. Good prices or short grass would start it earlier. The day this is written (July 26) a dispatch from Bazaar, Kan., tells of a ten-car shipment—one of the first—of four- and five-year-old steers. Their age and weight (unusual in present-day practice) explain why even



MOVING A SHIPMENT UP INTO THE "HILLS" FROM LOWER LAND AT RAILWAY STATION

the abundant grass and unfavorable market this season are not sufficient to justify grazing them longer. But the younger stuff will have many more days with the bluestem, unless conditions change or notes come due which cannot be renewed. Of the cattle not shipped out in fall—something over 100,000—many are in permanent breeding herds, many go to local feed-lots, and much of the young stuff will be "roughed through" in the near-by farming districts; for it happens that around these famous Flint Hills are some of the state's best areas for the production of alfalfa, Kafir corn, other forage, and Indian corn. The bluestem is not counted on for feed after the killing frosts, and the Flint Hills pastures are pretty well deserted in winter.

For reliability of income, Kansas hardly has another class of agriculture equaling the pasture business of the Flint Hills, but it has no bonanza features comparable with those of wheat-farming. The value of the land is pretty well stabilized on the basis of what it will do. During war prices, when \$16 was paid for a season's grazing, there was much talk about this pasture land being worth \$60 an acre. Really not much is offered for sale; some pastures are in possession of the second and third generations of the owning families, which is a good while for Kansas. A good pasture recently sold at \$32.50. On this basis, much would be worth only \$30. A little figuring will show the rate of income. If \$150 represents the value, taxes, and care of fencing for enough pasture to carry a steer, the pasture fee of \$8 for the season is income at the rate of $5\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. Out of this the owner must pay the expense of receiving in the spring, salting through the summer, and shipping out in the fall.

Carrying Capacity Given Due Consideration

The carrying capacity is a matter which deserves, and receives, careful attention. Prior to about 1913 there was a much greater difference in the capacity of different pastures than now. Some pasture-owners, as a matter of sound practice, strictly limited the number of cattle they took in, regardless of price. Others took the money and "mined their land." In 1913, with pastures heavily stocked at good prices, an unusual and very serious drought struck and persisted. The suffering of the cattle, and the money loss, jolted the business into a sounder practice, and now pasture leases limit the grazing to what has been found a safe quota—that is, one animal to an average of about five acres. The following year, 1914, many contracts required two acres more per animal than had been the custom. It happened to be an unusually good grass year, with the result that cattle did wonderfully, and prices reached foolish heights, catching cattlemen rather hard when beef subsequently started to come down.

But the business is on a solid basis now and pretty well standardized. The man who sticks strictly to renting his pasture is safer than a babe in arms. The demand for grass is certain, with only slight fluctuations in price; the hills are there to stay; and, with the intelligent management that has been developed, the productive power of the pastures bids fair to increase steadily.

FORT WORTH AND OKLAHOMA CITY COMMISSION CHARGE CASES

THE REPORT, findings of fact, and recommendations of the examiner in the case of the American National Live Stock Association *et al.* against the market agencies (live-stock commission firms) at Fort Worth, Texas, have just been furnished to the parties to that case. A thirty-day period has been allowed for filing exceptions, after which the case will come before the Secretary of Agriculture for decision.

The report of the examiner exhaustively reviews all the evidence, and announces the following general policy on which the decision is predicated:

It is the conclusion of the examiner that the reasonableness of commission charges should not be measured by the existing profits of all commission firms, or the average of their operating costs and profits, but that they must be determined upon a consideration of the operations of the well-organized, efficient commission firms, as shown by the evidence. Based upon the entire record in this proceeding, the examiner is of the opinion, and finds, that the rates for buying and selling live stock on a commission basis, as provided for in respondents' tariffs, are unreasonable. Upon the consideration of all the facts relating to the operations of each of the respondent market agencies, including the volume of business handled, the character of the receipts and method of handling the various species and classes of live stock, the volume of business, the size and character of the organization, the risk and hazards involved, the necessary expenses of operation, the duties and responsibilities imposed, and the necessity of maintaining high standards of personal service, it is the conclusion of the examiner that the following schedule of rates and charges is just and reasonable, and that the rates and charges for selling live stock should not be in excess of those herein recommended. It is the opinion of the examiner that this schedule of rates and charges will enable a reasonably well-organized market agency to operate upon an efficient basis, maintain a high standard of service, and yield a reasonable compensation. Based upon the evidence in this proceeding, the examiner is further of the opinion that a flat per-car charge for selling cars of unmixed live stock is just and equitable when supplemented by charges for extra services rendered by reason of necessity for additional sorting, for grade and class, as well as ownership.

In further explanation of the flat per-car charge it is stated:

The maximum rates are applicable to the majority of the car-lot consignments. The maximum car-lot charge applies to 88 per cent of the single-ownership consignments of cattle and calves, and practically all of the hogs and sheep. While the present schedules provide for per-head charges governed by certain maxima and minima, yet in most instances only the

maximum charge is applicable. Therefore the effect of the schedule in actual operation is to establish substantially a flat per-car charge.

Following is a statement showing the present old-line commission rates per car on unmixed live stock, and the proposed new flat rates recommended by the examiner for the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture:

Kind	Selling Commissions			Purchasing Commissions		
	Present Rates		Proposed New Flat Rates	Present Rates		Proposed New Flat Rates
	Min.	Max.		Min.	Max.	
Cattle.....	\$12	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$18	\$14
Calves, S.D.....	12	18	15	12	18	14
Calves, D.D.....	---	30	20	---	---	---
Hogs, S.D.....	8	12	10	---	12	10
Hogs, D.D.....	---	20	16	---	20	15
Sheep, S.D.....	8	12	10	---	12	10
Sheep, D.D.....	---	20	16	---	20	15

The Cattle Raisers' and Producers' Commission Company—a co-operative market agency at Fort Worth—was at the time of the hearing of this case operating on a lower basis of commission charges than the old-line firms, and its charges average less than those recommended by the examiner as just and reasonable. In the tentative decision that company is permitted to continue its lower charge. The following is the holding on that point:

If any market agency desires to operate on a lower schedule than the one determined to be reasonable, it is the opinion and recommendation of the examiner that such a departure should be allowed, provided the market agency in question satisfactorily demonstrates from its past operations that it can successfully operate on the lower schedule without impairing the interest of its patrons.

The officers of the American National Live Stock Association, representing the complainants in this case, have suggested certain modifications in some of the details in the proposed order of the examiner. In general, however, the findings are approved by complainants.

* * *

A tentative decision, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, has also been handed down in the case involving live-stock commission charges at the Oklahoma City Stock Yards. Following are the new rates recommended:

Kind	Selling Commissions		
	Present Rates		Proposed New Flat Rates
	Min.	Max.	
Cattle.....	\$17	\$22	\$16
Calves, S.D.....	17	22	16
Calves, D.D.....	---	25	20
Hogs, S.D.....	12	15	12
Hogs, D.D.....	---	24	18
Sheep, S.D.....	12	15	12
Sheep, D.D.....	---	24	18

It will be noted that the commission charges recommended at Oklahoma City are higher than

those recommended at Fort Worth by the following amounts per car: on cattle and calves, single-deck, \$1, and on hogs and sheep, \$2. This difference is less than under the old rates, which were found to be unreasonable. THE PRODUCER believes that the rates at Fort Worth and Oklahoma City should be the same, and on the basis recommended for Fort Worth.

LA FOLLETTE'S PLATFORM

WHEN WE WENT TO PRESS LAST MONTH, the convention of the revived Progressive party at Cleveland had not yet agreed on its platform. We were, therefore, unable to complete our presentation of political programs to be voted on in November by adding a third column setting forth the views of the party which is La Follette. Below we print the Progressive declaration of faith. As it sets an example of commendable brevity, we quote it practically in full:

"1. The use of the power of the federal government to crush private monopoly, not to foster it.

"2. Unqualified enforcement of the constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, press, and assemblage.

"3. Public ownership of the nation's water power and creation of a public super-power system. Strict public control and permanent conservation of all natural resources, including coal, iron, and other ores, oil and timber lands, in the interest of the people. Promotion of public works in times of business depression.

"4. Retention of surtaxes on swollen incomes, restoration of the tax on excess profits, taxation of stock dividends and on profits undistributed to evade taxes, rapidly progressive taxes on large estates and inheritances, and repeal of excessive tariff duties, especially on trust-controlled necessities of life, and of nuisance taxes on consumption, to relieve the people of the present unjust burden of taxation and compel those who profited by the war to pay their share of the war's costs, and to provide the funds for adjusted compensation solemnly pledged to the veterans of the World War.

"5. Reconstruction of the Federal Reserve and Federal Farm Loan Systems to provide for direct public control of the nation's money and credit, to make it available on fair terms to all, and national and state legislation to permit and promote co-operative banking.

"6. Adequate laws to guarantee to farmers and industrial workers the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, for the maintenance or improvement of their standards of life.

"7. Creation of a government marketing corporation to provide a direct route between farm producer and city consumer, and to assure farmers fair prices for their products, and protect consumers from the profiteers in foodstuffs and other necessities of life. Legislation to control the meat-packing industry.

"8. Protection and aid of co-operative enterprises by national and state legislation.

"9. Common international action to effect the economic recovery of the world from the effects of the World War.

"10. Repeal of the Esch-Cummins law. Public ownership of railroads, with democratic operation, with definite safeguards against bureaucratic control.

"11. Abolition of the tyranny and usurpation of the courts, including the practice of nullifying legislation in conflict with the political, social, or economic theories of the judges. Abolition of injunctions in labor disputes and the power to punish for contempt without trial by jury. Election of all federal judges without party designation for limited terms.

"12. Prompt ratification of the child-labor amendment, and subsequent enactment of a federal law to protect children in industry. Removal of legal discrimination against women by measures not prejudicial to legislation necessary for the protection of women and for the advancement of social welfare.

"13. A deep waterway from the Great Lakes to the sea.

"14. We denounce the mercenary system of degraded foreign policy under recent administrations, in the interest of financial imperialists, oil monopolists, and international bankers, which has at times degraded our State Department from its high service as a strong and kindly intermediary of defense-

less governments to a trading outpost for those interests and concession-seekers engaged in the exploitation of weaker nations, as contrary to the will of the American people, destructive of domestic development, and provocative of war. We favor an active foreign policy to bring about a revision of the Versailles Treaty in accordance with the terms of the armistice, and to promote firm treaty agreements with all nations to outlaw wars, abolish conscription, drastically reduce land, air, and naval armaments, and guarantee public referendums on peace and war.

Separate Resolutions

"Resolved, That we favor the immediate and complete independence of the Philippine Islands, in accordance with the pledges of the official representatives of the American people.

"Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the aspirations of the Irish people for freedom and independence.

"Resolved, That in the prevailing starvation in Germany, which, according to authoritative evidence, is beyond the scope of private charity, and in event of like destitution in any country, we consider it humane and just, and in conformity with our traditions and former practices, that the aid of our government should be extended in the form of the delivery of surplus food supplies to a reasonable amount, and upon such conditions as the emergency may justify.

"Resolved, That we denounce every such use of armed forces of the United States to aid in the exploitation of weaker nations as has occurred all too frequently in our relations with Haiti, San Domingo, Nicaragua, and other nations of Central and South America."

CONVENTION OF WYOMING WOOL GROWERS

UPWARD OF TWO HUNDRED SHEEPMEN from all parts of the state attended the twenty-first annual convention of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, held in Casper on July 15 to 17, 1924. The meeting was pronounced a great success. Secretary J. B. Wilson presented his annual report, after which his father, Dr. J. M. Wilson, delivered the presidential address. Charles J. Bayer, of the Biological Survey, spoke on predatory-animal and rodent control, and J. A. Hill, dean of the University of Wyoming, stressed the necessity of more care in breeding.

On the second day, L. H. Douglas, of the Forest Service, led off with a talk on forest ranges and the appraisal work undertaken by the Service. He was followed by Frank J. Hagenbarth, president of the National Wool Growers' Association, who vigorously opposed the principle involved in the raising of grazing fees, and concluded with remarks on the tariff and the necessity of organization. At the end of his speech, an assessment of one cent a head of sheep was unanimously voted by the convention, to provide working funds for the association.

The mutual interests of packer and producer were the subject of R. T. Keefe, director of the Institute of American Meat Packers. Matt Staff, president of the National Wool Warehouse and Storage Company, spoke of the activities of his concern in behalf of the wool-growers. R. C. Pollock, managing director of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, explained the work being done by that organization.

In the afternoon of the last day, resolutions were adopted—

Holding maintenance of present tariff on wool necessary for stability of industry;

Requesting that reductions of rentals on state lands be made permanent;

Urging establishment of permanent stock trails on ranges of Wyoming;

Opposing any move to destroy power of federal and state Supreme Courts to define constitutions of nation and state;

Petitioning Wyoming's members in Congress to work for simplification of Income Tax Act;

Indorsing National Wool Warehouse and Storage Company;

Condemning practice of selling shoddy under name of "all wool," and asking Federal Trade Commission to take necessary steps to terminate such practice;

Commending work of Bureau of Animal Industry and insisting on strict enforcement of law regarding scabies;

Favoring amendment of state constitution to give legislature power to enact law levying assessment on live stock for eradication of predatory animals and live-stock diseases;

Praising work of Biological Survey, urging increase of appropriation for its support, and requesting grant of \$100,000 by state legislature to be used in conjunction with federal funds for destruction of predatory animals and noxious rodents;

Protesting against further increases of grazing fees on national forests, and indorsing Phipps bill as amended;

Recommending placing of valuations on grazing lands for taxation purposes on basis comparable with valuations on other classes of property;

Indorsing service rendered by National Live Stock and Meat Board, and requesting packers and live-stock exchanges to give it continued support.

The reins of the association will remain in the same hands for the current year. Dr. J. M. Wilson, president, and J. B. Wilson, secretary-treasurer, both of McKinley, were re-elected. It was decided to hold the 1925 convention in Buffalo.

MIDSUMMER MEETING OF COLORADO STOCK GROWERS

THE FIRST MIDSUMMER MEETING of the Colorado Stock Growers' Association, held in Gunnison on July 16-18, 1924, was a great success. Much important business was transacted during the three-day session, and plenty of entertainment was supplied by the town and neighborhood. It was decided to make this summer convention on the western slope a regular annual occurrence, and Gunnison was selected as the permanent meeting-place.

Of the many resolutions passed, the following were the most important:

Expressing faith in future of cattle industry, and calling attention of bankers to its value as furnishing an attractive opportunity for investment;

Complimenting Secretary of Agriculture on his enforcement of Packers and Stock-Yards Act;

Urging Congress to repeal section 15-a of Transportation Act, and protesting against depriving states of power over intrastate rates;

Approving Senate Resolution No. 107, declaring agriculture and live stock to be basic industry of United States and directing Congress to adjust rates on agricultural products on lowest possible basis;

Favoring Phipps bill (S. 2424), as reported by Senator McNary, for reduction of grazing fees on national forests, fixing maximum and minimum rates at three-fourths of rates in effect on January 1, 1924, with amendment giving Secretary of Agriculture authority, whenever such rates by him are found insufficient to cover reasonable cost of administration, to increase them from time to time;

Advocating placing of all public domain under administration of one department, a policy of range management for unreserved or unoccupied public domain, and passage of S. 2325 for that purpose, with slight amendments;

Indorsing work and policies of American National Live Stock Association, particularly its labors in behalf of lower freight rates;

Appreciating service being rendered by THE PRODUCER and urging all stockmen in Colorado to subscribe for it;

Requesting carriers to adjust freight rates on pure-bred animals on a fair and reasonable basis;

Favoring such tariff legislation as will give same protection to products of farm and ranch as to those of factory;

Recommending plan for wholesale destruction of predatory animals and injurious rodents through poisoning, and co-operation between states and Biological Survey to that end;

Thanking Department of Agriculture for measures taken to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in California, and State Stock Inspection Board for its work in protecting State of Colorado against introduction of disease;

Urging all stockmen of Colorado to give their moral support to National Western Stock Show at Denver and State Fair at Pueblo;

Commending members of State Board of Equalization who voted for resolution asking for material reduction in assessed valuation of agricultural and grazing lands;

Suggesting abolition of State Tax Commission, owing to failure to give requested relief to stock-raising industry by placing land valuations on equitable basis;

Thanking commission firms at Denver market for collection of assessment of 25 cents per car for financing of Stock Growers' Association.

FARM RELIEF CONGRESS AT ST. PAUL

ACTIVE PROMOTION of the principles embodied in the McNary-Haugen bill, with a view to agitating the passage of this or a similar measure at the next session of Congress, was the subject of the main resolution adopted by the National Agricultural Relief Congress, meeting at St. Paul on July 11 and 12. A central organization was created, under the name of the American Council of Agriculture, to work for this end and to further the interests of the American farmer generally. George N. Peek, of Moline, Illinois, representing the Rock Island Farm Bureau, was elected the first president of the council.

Other resolutions passed—

Indorsed farmers' co-operative marketing associations;

Favored orderly marketing of grain through farm-controlled co-operative agencies;

Recommended greater harmony of purpose and action in operation of co-operative live-stock commission companies, in which field "such splendid progress has been made during last two years;"

Urged carload feeders to consign their live stock to a co-operative commission company, and immediate establishment of a farmers' live-stock shipping association at all points where such associations are not now in operation;

Sanctioned as "the first objective" undisputed control by producers of central grain and live-stock markets;

Approved exacting pledge from candidates for Congress of faithful support of legislation giving agriculture equality with industry and labor, in line with spirit of McNary-Haugen bill;

Expressed appreciation of signal service rendered by Department of Agriculture under Henry C. Wallace;

Recommended that council give special consideration to problems surrounding cotton-producers.

Under the plan as formulated, it is provided that membership in the American Council of Agriculture shall be by groups, and that any agricultural association in the United States shall be eligible to one of such groups. The present membership consists of thirteen representative organizations, with two places left vacant for the cotton- and tobacco-growers.

The first annual meeting of the council will be held on the second Tuesday in February, at a place to be named later.

NATIONAL BOARD OUTLINES PROGRAM

AT THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, held in Chicago on June 30 and July 1, 1924, the following resolution was offered by C. M. O'Donel, who, with D. A. Millett, chosen chairman of the board for the current year, represents the American National Live Stock Association on that body:

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this board that the objects for which it has been organized can be promoted by encouraging the study of stock-feeding with reference to the palatability of meat; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the managing director of this board be instructed to enter into correspondence with the Bureau of Animal Industry and with state agricultural colleges, and others, with the object of encouraging and co-ordinating such experiments; and be it further

"Resolved, That one thousand dollars be appropriated by this board out of any available funds for the furtherance of the purpose of this resolution."

The resolution was adopted.

Plans were outlined for continuing and broadening the board's research work on meat. Further contact with the

schools will be sought. Special emphasis will be placed on the production of motion pictures and on meat demonstrations before women's organizations. Dissemination of material through the press will, as heretofore, constitute an important part of the program.

Two distinct projects will be launched at once: scientific research with reference to the place of meat in the diet, and a study of efficient and inefficient methods in meat-retailing. The former will be undertaken at the laboratories of Columbia University and the University of Rochester, New York. For this work, which will be in the hands of the National Research Council, \$6,000 has been appropriated. Investigations of the retail trade have been made possible by a congressional grant of \$25,000, secured through the activities of a committee of the board which went to Washington for the purpose. This study will be conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture, and a committee was appointed to confer with officials of the department with regard to the work.

The next meeting of the National Live Stock and Meat Board will be held in Chicago during the week of the International Live Stock Exposition in December of this year.

FARMERS TO OPERATE NATIONAL ELEVATORS

A PLAN for creating a co-operative elevator combine, owned and directed by grain-farmers throughout the United States, has been under consideration for some time by a special committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation, headed by O. E. Bradfute, president of the federation, and the initial steps in setting the extensive machinery in motion have been about completed. Five of the largest systems in the country will be included in the gigantic merger—the Armour Grain Company, the Rosenbaum Grain Corporation, Rosenbaum Brothers, J. C. Shaffer & Co., all of Chicago, and the Davis, Merrill & Noland Company of Kansas City. These companies now handle more than a billion dollars' worth of cash grain transactions annually, and control practically the entire elevator capacity at the Chicago terminal, besides much of that at other markets. Twenty million dollars is to be the capital of the new organization, which will acquire control of elevator space for 50,000,000 bushels of grain. It is to be named the Grain Marketing Corporation, and a charter has been granted under the 1923 co-operative marketing laws of Illinois. Active operations are scheduled to begin at once, so as to get in on the crops now coming to market.

A temporary board of directors, consisting of the presidents of the consolidated companies, has been named, which will function until the new corporation is firmly on its feet. Gray Silver, of Martinsburg, W. Va., legislative representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation, has been elected the first president. Eventually it is the intention to turn the control of the organization over to a board representing all producer interests.

Stock in the corporation, to be offered to farmers, according to the program will pay 8 per cent interest. Pending sale of the stock, bankers are said to have pledged themselves to supply funds for the purpose of carrying on current business.

Valuation of properties to be taken over is to be accomplished through impartial appraisal by experts. Titles will be marketable, and will be free from all incumbrances or indebtedness.

It is understood that the action of the five concerns in offering their properties for sale was the result of recent legislation, restricting their operations, especially with regard to future trading, and the general poor financial showing made by the elevators under their old management.

PACKER FAVORS OPENING RETAIL SHOPS

RETAIL MEAT-SELLING by packers as a remedy for their own financial troubles is advocated by a correspondent to the *National Provisioner* who signs himself "Eastern Packer." After pointing out that "meat moves more directly into consumptive channels than any other product of the farm," and that "surely there should be no complicated machinery necessary to effect this brief operation upon a profitable basis," the writer goes on to say:

"Packers—large and small—must prepare to retail their product to the consumers before there can be any permanent relief from a condition which has become unendurable. It is all very well to 'pooh-hoo' the idea, and to urge caution for fear of disturbing packer-retailer relations; but let us face the facts, and apply such remedy as will give us relief.

"The consuming public is paying good prices for its meats. Frequently they pay too much for inferior products. Retailing direct will assure them uniformly good meats at reasonable prices. Such an assurance will turn them away from inferior substitutes, and put them back on a meat diet, as nature intended.

"This is not a tirade against retailers, but they merely occupy a position which we must discuss. It has been argued that packers would be unable to finance the establishment of retail shops; but many packers are doing it, and the same interests which have already invested money may as well prepare to invest more, or lose what they have already invested.

"Another argument is the impossibility of getting reliable and competent help. Any packer who is unable to educate his own cutters, and who cannot qualify men in his own organization for shop managers, may as well quit now, as he is unfit for executive positions. Such openings held out to those with ambition to engage in that line of work would be a big attraction and would bring some splendid new blood into the industry.

"If the packer can sell direct to the consumer, he need not 'guess' what he can realize for his meats. His retail prices can be just as stable as he wants to make them. Moreover, he will find himself upon such a comfortable margin that he will be encouraged to pay living prices to the live-stock producer.

"He can far better afford to encourage the man in the country—the producer—than to strangle the whole industry merely to let the retailer beat his prices down to where only losses result.

"Let us be fair to the producers and consumers, to our stockholders and to ourselves. Much depends on our efforts to correct a condition which is causing alarm in circles not wholly concerned with meat-packing. Let us cut out this buncombe of retailers' cost accounting, and find out our own costs.

"A lot of our folks are thinking along this line, and it would be an interesting topic for discussion at the next convention."

COLD SPRING INJURES CORN CROP

CONDITION OF THE CORN CROP in the United States as a whole on July 1 was given by the Department of Agriculture as 72 per cent of normal. This is the lowest figure ever recorded for that date. The acreage planted to corn was estimated at 105,604,000 acres—an increase over last year of 1.4 per cent—and the crop forecast was for 2,515,000,000 bushels, which is a reduction of one-sixth from 1923. An unfavorable start, due to excessive cold during the planting season, followed by too much rain in the central Corn Belt throughout June, is responsible for this poor showing. However, fine growing weather during the greater part of July has offset this to some extent.

Weather conditions, detrimental to corn, on the other hand were beneficial for other crops. Prospects for wheat, oats, and barley greatly improved in June. The July estimate, with the June figures in parentheses, was as follows: winter wheat, 543,000,000 bushels (509,000,000); spring wheat, 197,000,000 (184,000,000); all wheat, 740,000,000 (693,000,000); oats, 1,356,000,000 (1,232,000,000); barley, 170,000,000 (160,000,000).

On account of the chilly May, hay crops likewise were slow in starting. With warmer weather, there has been a substantial improvement in the hay prospects.

FORCED LIQUIDATION IN NEW MEXICO

A LETTER from a prominent live-stock man in New Mexico speaks of the policy of liquidation pursued by the War Finance Corporation, the federal reserve bank, and the local banking institutions in that state, singly or in conjunction, to the complete undoing of the hapless borrower. We quote:

"Loans are said to be called where the security is ample. There seems to be a good deal of 'passing the buck' between the War Finance Board and the federal reserve bank, on the one hand, and the local banks and loan companies, on the other. Each party to the loan claims that the other one is pressing for liquidation. An instance has been cited where a man had taken a loan from a bank in the Pecos Valley (which had been discounted with the federal reserve bank) for \$1,200 on a bunch of something over 100 cows. He had been notified that the bank must have the money, and he sent them word to come and take the cattle. They sent a man to look at them, who offered him \$10 a head for the cows, though at that time there were sixty calves in the bunch. He refused it, and arranged to get the money from a private source. It has also been said that the banks in the Pecos Valley, so far from being willing to put up money for new bulls, will not even put up the necessary rent for state lands. I mention these things to show what a deplorable condition the New Mexico cattleman is in.

"I doubt if things will improve unless some new capital gets into the business, so that a ranchman will be the real, and not simply the nominal, owner of his herd. The tendency is, and has been for some time, toward small herds—100 to 1,000 head—with a bank holding a note for almost the full value of the cattle. This means a sort of peonage, and we are approaching a condition similar to that of the cotton-grower of the South, whose every expenditure has to be sanctioned by a bank or the local merchant who carries him. It is a rotten situation! But what chance is there of interesting new capital? The business is not remunerative; the life is a hard one; and the picturesque attractiveness of it disappeared with the big herds. Incidentally, government experts' exaggerated reports of production cost are enough to scare off any new capital."

WHAT TO DO WITH THE HEIFERS

ON A QUESTION that is very much to the fore with ranchmen at the present time—namely, how to dispose of their surplus heifer calves in such a way as not to show on the wrong side of the ledger at the end of the year—a private correspondent writes interestingly, if rather discouragingly, in a recent letter to this office. Below we have summarized his remarks, which we present for the consideration of our readers:

An unsolved problem of the range man is the disposal of the heifer end of his calf crop. Feeders are not keen on heifers, on account of the lower price paid for them by packers, even if they are spayed. This discrimination does not appear to rest on any inferiority in dressing percentage or in the quality of the meat, but rather to be part of packer policy. In Great Britain it is not unusual for the prize beef animal at the big shows to be a heifer—something practically unheard of in this country. There heifer meat sells as high as steer meat, if not higher, and is even preferred as being of finer grain.

Tests at the Agricultural Experiment Station of Nebraska show that of one lot of heifers and five lots of steers fed from October 24, 1923, to June 30, 1924, the heifers killed out with the highest dressing percentage. It is true that the heifers lost money; but so, though in smaller amounts, did three of the five steer lots. While the heifers weighed a little more than the steers at the beginning, the steers gained more, and finally outsold the heifers by an average of 50 cents a hundred pounds. If the heifers had sold on the same level as the steers, as they should have done, they would have shown better results than three of the lots of steers.

This situation represents a serious loss to the producer. Not much in the way of relief, however, may be hoped for from educating the consumer on the merits of heifer or cow beef, as this beef never is sold as such. On the other hand, the big packers are presumably beyond the reach of persuasion. The only chance of doing something seems to lie with the independent packer and the butcher-buyer.

FARM RETURNS IN 1923

RETURNS OF \$1,020 to owner-operators of farms, for the use of an average capital of \$17,500, during the year 1923, are shown by a survey of over 16,000 representative farms in the United States just completed by the Department of Agriculture. This compares with \$917 on 6,000 farms in 1922.

The 1923 return included \$890 cash—the margin of cash receipts over cash expenses, plus an increase of \$130 in inventories of crops, live stock, machinery, and supplies. In addition, the average farmer produced food and fuel consumed on the farm, estimated to be worth \$250, and had the use of the farm house, the rent of which was not reported. The cash balance of \$890 was all the average farm made available to the owner to pay his living expenses, take care of debts, and make improvements. Interest paid on debts during the year averaged \$230, and the reported outlay for improvements averaged \$140.

Sales of crops amounted to \$850, or 38 per cent of the cash receipts of \$2,240. Sales of live stock or products of live stock amounted to \$1,310, or 58 per cent, while miscellaneous receipts were \$80, or 4 per cent. Cash expenses amounted to \$1,350, which included hired-labor cost of \$350 for the year; live stock, \$240; feed, \$210; fertilizer, \$60; seed, \$40; taxes, \$190; machinery, \$110, and miscellaneous, \$150.

The size of the farms was 300 acres on the average, and the reported value of land and buildings \$14,540. The value of crops, live stock, machinery, and supplies on hand at the beginning of the year was \$2,960; making a total capital of \$17,500. The acreage of the farms reporting in 1922 was 252 acres, and the average capital \$16,400.

COURT UPHOLDS SECRETARY IN PEORIA RATES

AN ORDER of the Secretary of Agriculture fixing charges for yardage and feed at the Peoria stock-yards, against which the Peoria Stock-Yards Company had asked for an injunction, has been upheld by the Circuit Court, with the exception of the yardage rate on hogs. The secretary's order reduces yardage on cattle from 30 to 22 cents per head, on calves from 15 to 11 cents, on sheep from 8 to 6 cents, and on horses from 30 to 22 cents. On hogs the court fixes a rate of not more than 9 cents, instead of the 7½ cents of the secretary, the previous charge being 10 cents.

The order also prescribes that the maximum margin between the cost and selling price on feed shall not be more than 39 cents per bushel on corn, 23 cents on oats, 58 cents per hundredweight on hay, and 48 cents on straw. Under the schedule as charged during 1922, the gross margin was 53 cents on corn, 28 cents on oats, 83 cents on hay, and 67 cents on straw.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION AWARDS REPARATION

REPARATION amounting to between \$225,000 and \$250,000 is to be paid to shippers for unlawfully collecting from them separate charges for loading and unloading live stock, in addition to the rates to and from the stock-yards, according to a decision rendered by the Interstate Commerce Commission in the case of the Chicago Live Stock Exchange against the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company and other carriers. This complaint was originally filed in November, 1917. Rehearings and various delays have intervened to put the determination off until now. Most of the reimbursements are claimed by members of the exchange, either in their own name or as agents for live-stock shippers, but the packers at Chicago likewise come in for a bite of this well-ripened plum.

RAISING REVENUE FOR BRAND INSPECTION AT OMAHA

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 4, a fee of ten cents a head will be assessed on all cattle inspected at the Omaha market by the brand inspectors employed by the State Live Stock Commission and the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association for the States of Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska. The collection of this fee has been agreed upon after negotiations between representatives of the live-stock associations of the three states, and has been approved by the Packers and Stock-Yards Administration. Collections will be made on presentation of brand inspectors' tallies to the secretary of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange, and will be distributed to the secretaries of the respective associations as directed by the inspectors. A tariff to this effect has been published.

A similar assessment will be made at other markets where these associations maintain inspectors.

LIVE-STOCK DISEASE SITUATION

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

EXCEPT FOR A FEW FLARE-UPS, which were promptly suppressed, the foot-and-mouth disease in California continues to be under control. According to a statement issued on July 28, three cases of new infection were found during the week preceding that date. Two of these occurred in Tuolumne County and one in Los Angeles County. The affected animals were all promptly slaughtered and buried. In the fourteen other counties which originally contained the disease no new cases had appeared for thirty-eight days.

Anthrax

Anthrax is spreading in the South. In Louisiana practically every parish is said to have been invaded by the disease. In Mississippi more than a thousand animals have died. Many persons, stung by flies that had been feeding on the carcasses, have succumbed.

Hog Cholera

Hog cholera caused a loss of more than \$27,000,000 to the swine industry of the United States during the year ended April 30, 1924, according to a recent compilation by the Department of Agriculture. More than half of this loss occurred in the Corn Belt states.

Rabies

Outbreaks of rabies are reported from the West and Middle West.

THE CALENDAR

- August 25-27, 1924—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- August 29-30, 1924—Visitors' Days at Great Basin Experiment Station, Ephraim, Utah.
- September 22-28, 1924—Dairy Cattle Congress, Waterloo, Iowa.
- September 29-October 4, 1924—National Swine Show, Peoria, Ill.
- October 28-31, 1924—Annual Stocker and Feeder Show, South St. Joseph, Mo.
- November 1-8, 1924—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- November 15-22, 1924—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- November 29-December 6, 1924—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- January 17-24, 1925—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.

"I consider THE PRODUCER the source of the most accurate information on the live-stock business today."—M. A. GRISHAM, Toyah, Tex.

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GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

BEGINNING EXPANSION was seen in several lines during July. The demand for steel and non-ferrous metals increased. More active buying marked the automobile trade. In textiles, high prices for raw cotton were maintained, silk advanced, and wool held its previous gains. However, many mills yet remained idle. Hides, long dormant, showed new signs of life, domestic packers strengthening steadily. Business in footwear and other leather goods improved. As a result of continued brisk building, orders for lumber exceeded output. Car-loadings were about 10 per cent under last year's.

Warm weather and scattered rains stimulated the growth of corn, which has not, however, entirely overcome its unfavorable start. Harvesting of winter wheat is finished, with better returns generally than expected. Private estimates indicate a crop almost as large as that of last year. Poor reports from the Canadian Northwest and reduced yields in Europe have sent wheat prices up. At the close of July, September wheat was quoted at \$1.32 at Chicago, while \$1.10 was the quotation for corn. Showers in the Pacific Northwest have bettered the outlook for spring wheat and oats.

Due to a falling-off in receipts and improvement in the export demand, hog prices made a phenomenal advance, carrying quotations more than \$3 above the low level of the year. Part of this, however, was lost late in the month. Cattle dragged slowly behind, and are still considerably out of line with both hogs and sheep. Lard is up 3½ cents a pound.

A further cheapening of money rates marked the month's financial transactions. Call loans were rated at 2 per cent on the New York Stock Exchange, and

quotations for time funds were marked down to 2½ per cent—the lowest of the year. Bond and stock markets were extremely active, Libertys going to the highest figure on record. Under the stimulus of the optimistic outlook with regard to the result of the reparations conference at London, English exchange rose to the highest point of the year, followed by the currencies of other European countries.

A NEW GRAIN CORPORATION

THE MERGER of five of our largest elevator companies into a farmer-owned combine is an event of outstanding interest. In size not only is it a stupendous undertaking, but through the manner of its proposed control it commands attention. After the downfall of the United States Grain Growers, Inc., it was felt that farmers, having burned their fingers, would be wary of new ventures of that nature. The men back of the new scheme seem to have no such misgivings.

There is nothing wrong with the co-operative principle. The future belongs to those who have learned enough to unite for their mutual advantage. The trouble has been with starting at the wrong end—with building up an elaborate structure, and appointing staffs of ornamental and high-salaried officers, before the necessary ground-work was laid in sound finance and the support of the small man who forms the inevitable final unit. An organization of that kind cannot be rushed. It takes patience, a lot of mean and thankless work, and infinite circumspection. The lesson of the Grain Growers' failure, and other recent occurrences, should not be lost.

We are told that the organization of the new Grain Marketing Corporation, as the merged companies are to be called, is almost complete, and that it is ready to begin functioning. A president and temporary government have been chosen. Everything seems to have run along with admirable smoothness—up to the one point that alone remains to be looked after. That is the financial problem. Farmers are invited to buy twenty million dollars' worth of stock, on which 8 per cent interest is promised. THE PRODUCER hopes that enough support will be forthcoming to assure the enterprise, and that its earnings will be sufficient to keep it going.

THE NEW GRAZING SCHEDULES

ELSEWHERE we print the new fees proposed for cattle on the national forests of California, as submitted to the California Cattlemen's Association. As will be seen, the increases average more than 100 per cent. Probably this may be taken as representative of the rates which the Forest Service will endeavor to establish throughout the northern states. Similar schedules, with requests for com-

ments, have been sent to the officers of other state organizations.

In thus submitting its tentative schedules to individual state associations for approval or criticism, the Forest Service seems to be actuated by a desire to forestall or weaken whatever united action might be taken later by the national organizations. What that action would be is sufficiently indicated by the resolutions adopted by the American National Live Stock Association and the National Wool Growers' Association at their conventions last January. It is clear that a close study of the whole problem, with all the data at hand on which a decision must rest, is necessary as a preliminary step to forming a comprehensive opinion in this matter; and such a study cannot be made locally or on fractional evidence. If state associations are now to express their views on the merits of each individual proposition, not only will there result a great confusion of ideas, but the whole situation will be muddled.

The Phipps bill, as amended, fixing grazing fees at not to exceed three-fourths of the present rates, is on the Senate calendar and will be taken up by Congress early in December. If it should pass, the question then will have been disposed of. If it fails, a year will be left for discussion of the attitude to be taken on the commercial-valuation principle.

We strongly advise officers of state organizations to refrain from committing themselves to any definite reply to such propositions as may be submitted to them for their consideration until the national organizations have had an opportunity to examine the whole problem in detail and have agreed upon a common course. Whether or not any of the new schedules may appear acceptable from a local viewpoint, stockmen in this matter should stand together.

SHOULD PACKERS RETAIL?

ARGUMENTS advanced by live-stock men in favor of meat-retailing by packers have been based on the theory that the shorter the road between producer and consumer, and the fewer the intermediate steps, the better prices should be obtained—the higher by one, the lower by the other, to the advantage of everybody. It is claimed, and we are quite ready to believe, that the average earnings of the meat-market man are exceedingly modest. Nevertheless, presumably he is making a living. If, instead of the array of retail shops lining the thoroughfares of every city in the United States, and all too often conducted by incompetent people, we could have a few big, centrally located markets, manned by packer-trained experts, getting their meats direct from the packers' coolers, with overhead reduced to a minimum and with no rake-offs to in-betweens, who

will deny that vast sums could be saved? Of these savings, the largest slice should go to the producer—he needs it the worst. But if also such a system would reduce the price to the consumer, which it should, two sparrows would be killed. And let it not be forgotten that cheaper meats will mean more meats.

Packers have hitherto demurred to this argumentation. As they see it, retailing would not be to their interest. Whatever the results to producer and consumer, to themselves, they calculate, it would be unprofitable. It would mean the investment of vast amounts of money at a time when packer securities are none too popular; it would add new and elaborate machinery to a system already unwieldy; it would put the packers at the mercy of a lot of employees whose capacity and integrity they would be unable to control; and it would antagonize the retailers on whose trade they would continue to be in large measure dependent. That Vestey Brothers, in Great Britain, have made a signal success of their retail branch makes little impression upon them—conditions are different; nor have they been convinced by the fact that smaller packers on our own west coast are actively engaged in retailing, and supposedly making money at it—local problems have no national applicability.

Now, however, a man from the packers' own ranks comes out in their official organ, the *National Provisioner*, and openly advises them to enter the retail business. And the burden of his plea, let it be noted, is not succor for the bankrupt producer, nor relief to the exasperated consumer—though these, too, come within his humane purview—but first and foremost the great benefit that retailing would bestow upon the packers themselves. We print, in part, this interesting letter on another page, and invite our readers' attention to it. It will have no effect, but it throws on the controversy a side light which should not be missed.

William C. Irvine

WILLIAM C. IRVINE, of Douglas, Wyoming, died at Santa Monica, California, on July 27. Mr. Irvine came to Wyoming in 1873, and as head of the Ogalalla Cattle Company soon became one of the outstanding live-stock men of the state. For many years he was treasurer of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, and was on the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association. He was long active in politics, serving as both state senator and treasurer. During the World War he was director of the War Finance Corporation for Wyoming.

Death was due to arthritis, from which Mr. Irvine had long been suffering. Last winter he went to southern California, hoping to get relief. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

SAVING THE COWMAN

TO THE PRODUCER: LOS ANGELES, CAL., July 12, 1924.

Saving the farmer is the present political occupation of the nation, while saving the cowman is distinctly a southwestern theme, as saving the wheat-farmer is a northwestern problem. Saving the cowman is not bothering the packers or retailers, nor to any great extent the middlemen, as their slogan is to save the cattle and meat trade by making it more profitable. It is bothering some banks and loan companies that forced premature liquidation, thereby lowering prices and making ranches non-productive. When cows are liquidated, the interest keeps working, the deficit mounts, and there are no cattle keeping up with the growing debt. Some forty or fifty southwestern banks have bitten the dust through their policy of forced liquidation during the past few years.

The cowman today is like a prospector fighting his way on foot, with one canteen, across Death Valley. It does not help to tell him how he got there, or what other route he could have taken. What he wants to know is the way to water, shade, and grub, and the quickest route that will bring him out. The cowman wants to know how to save himself with what he has to work with.

Some may say: "Let the poor fool die—he wouldn't take the right route!" But the loss of one man's producing power is both a community and a national loss; and when the cattle industry has proved far too costly for millionaires, the ordinary poor man cannot be expected to exist and keep on with it. About 99 per cent of the southwestern stockmen have come to realize that theirs is a costly occupation. I could name thousands of men whose word or check ten, or even five, years ago was good for a hundred thousand dollars, and who have not money today to live on. I could name large outfits, controlling tens of thousands of cattle, hundreds of thousands of acres of selected land, and ability to operate and finance; and those that have not already "cashed in" are either contemplating the probability of doing so, or throwing constantly into the growing chasm the cash reserves from other investments. I could show outfits actually worth, on today's appraisals, less than their existing mortgages, which were based on 20 to 30 per cent of values when they were made.

As bad as our southwestern market has been, it has been no worse than markets in the Middle West. As bad as many western men who are new to markets consider the method of operation and protection, I am assured that we have in the Southwest a comparatively pure operation. When I was first told that by a government market man, I replied that then it was time for the cowmen to reform these other markets, or replace them with a method that would give the producer some protection. With packers supreme in the price-making, only a buyers' market is possible, unless the packers apply vision and self-restraint.

Whose ox is gored makes a mighty difference with us all. The ordinary producer is of exactly the same clay as his brethren in the markets, the stock-yards, the packing plants, and the retail shops. There is no argument with any of them

but the cash dollar in plain sight, to be collected before it wanders elsewhere; and the future will be met when it comes.

One of our professors has recently advocated selling younger cattle. This is all right, if our local packers will buy them; but it so happens that they will not. The men to work on are the packers. There are plenty of light, fat, southwestern cattle; but what the packers want is heavy grades. Irrespective of what Chicago does, here it is the reverse at present.

Only recently I read a supposedly authoritative article showing how little the farmer paid in taxes, and that the cities were bearing the brunt. Superficially, in mere dollars and cents, that is true. About a third of our population live in the country and two-thirds in the city. About two middle marketers exist to every three farms. Take the item of a veal calf that brings, f. o. b. ranch, 5 cents a pound and dresses out 70 per cent. Grant that the packer makes a fair profit and sells the veal around 12 to 14 cents. Then it goes to the retailer, whom you pay from 30 to 40 cents for the meat. Why? Taxes and labor are responsible to a considerable degree. Every bond issue means more tax on property, which again means higher rental on the shop, on the butcher's home, on the things he himself buys. And it all comes out of the producer. All the others mark up cost, and then a profit. The producer can mark up nothing. He has been donating an average loss of ten to twenty dollars on every steer he has marketed. The tax the farmer pays on his ranch is the least of it all. What he sells pays it over and over, and what he buys has repeated taxes added to its cost.

It becomes a question whether, after all, there is not a supreme law back of all this loss—an evolution from open, rough methods to safer, smaller ventures; a change from the scattered western methods to the methods of the Middle West. Or is it an evolution of a deeper significance—an approachment of our agrarian industry to the state of older nations? Is it for our farmers to accept long hours and hard work for a bare subsistence, as the peasants of many older countries do? I cannot imagine our American people accepting such a yoke.

The cowman is either too busy or too worried to speculate much on this futurity theory. What he wants is to find the way out. The farmer and the live-stock man are individualists. They seem totally to lack the herd instinct that makes their cattle arrange themselves in groups for their own defense, surrounding the weak and facing the intruder with lowered horns. The farmer and the stockman will never be saved until they can think with a group brain, instead of an individual-profit brain, securing their benefit through group participation, and using their individual brains to produce a better product at less cost.

The heavy men in the cow trade—semi-producers and middleman financiers—will straddle every time. Group action must come from determined small producers. When they learn to act in unison, some of the evils they face will flee and fade. There is one man who can save the cowman, and that man is himself.

A. L. SPELLMEYER.

CONTROLLED BY THE CONTROLLERS

AJO, ARIZ., July '11, 1924.

TO THE PRODUCER:

First of all, let me explain that the "controlled" and "controllers" referred to above are, respectively, the live-stock producers and shippers, parties of the first part, and the California Control Committee, party of the second part. A great deal has been written about the foot-and-mouth disease situation. In some cases undue diligence has been shown in giving the gravity of the situation more prominence than necessary; but far more persistent have been the efforts of certain interests to minimize the danger of spread of this terrible plague to the flocks and herds of adjoining states.

The governor of Arizona, George W. P. Hunt, came in for his share of adverse criticism through his untiring efforts to protect the agricultural and other business interests of our state; and, in so doing, incidentally he was safeguarding the people and live stock of the states east and north of Arizona. Governor Hunt, ably assisted by the state veterinarian and the Live Stock Sanitary Board, put into effect and maintained such a rigid quarantine that even a crow could not, with any degree of safety, fly across the Colorado River, east-bound. The wisdom of this is now manifest to all unprejudiced thinkers. The disease, up to the present time, has been confined to California territory.

It is not possible to conduct a campaign of prevention or extermination without engendering the ill-will and hostility of certain persons and certain interests that are, unhappily, adversely affected. In the campaign which the United States government has waged unceasingly for years to rid the southern and southeastern states of the fever tick, another campaign of education was first necessary in order to overcome the prejudices of certain individuals, and the skepticism of others, before headway could be made; but now, after the cleaning-up of thousands of square miles of tick-infested territory, it is difficult to find a man in those sections who does not sing the praises of our government and vouch for the good that has been accomplished. Not only has the cattleman profited, but, through his betterment, this progress has benefited, indirectly, those in other walks of life. So it is with every progressive move—the "man from Missouri" has to be shown.

Credit is due the men sent by our Uncle Samuel to assist those of our sister-state of California in working out the numerous problems incident to quarantine regulations and supplying the markets with meat from non-infected districts.

The axiom that confronts us live-stock producers is that this situation did not puncture the pocketbooks of the "controllers" as it did the wallets of the "controlled." The former, as a rule, got paid for what they did or did not do, while the few of us who have been able to crawl out of one hole only to fall into another, in recent years, are now "controlled" out of an opportunity to seek the wherewithal which we always need in exchange for beans and horseshoes. The markets needed our fat cattle; and our cattle were fat because the winter rains in southern Arizona made as good spring and early summer range beef as we have had in this portion of the state for many years. A great many cattle were fed in the Salt River and Yuma valleys. There should have been a good outlet westward for all our surplus beef; but there was always a deterrent factor. Of course, there was a reason why the permit to ship was not forthcoming for days and days, and was only received at a belated date when demurrage charges had accrued on the cars, and the railroad company had tired of waiting and taken the cars away. Sometimes it happened that a big run was on at the market the same day you got there with your cattle, which was evidence that too many permits had been issued for stock to arrive the same day, instead of spreading the permits over a longer period. Still, this accrued to the

benefit of someone. The buyers bought the cattle more cheaply—"it is an ill wind," etc.

There are those who believe that a true Californian would rather have a tough steak off a drought-stricken California steer than a nice juicy porterhouse from the loin of a fat Arizona bullock, all other things being equal. That may be one of the reasons why the Control Committee favored drought-stricken California as against the fat-of-the-land of Arizona. I fear that this ultra-selfish California spirit may have permeated the souls of some of those "controllers," and caused them to see lean in our Arizona fat.

S. E. MCDANIEL,

Representing the Arizona Live Stock Sanitary Board.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE FROM SMALLPOX VIRUS

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CAL., July 4, 1924.

TO THE PRODUCER:

I have read with considerable disdain the various articles appearing in THE PRODUCER anent the foot-and-mouth disease in California. It may be all right for the daily press to supply these "inspired" stories to a credulous world, but THE PRODUCER is supposed to furnish facts.

The foot-and-mouth disease is one with which I have had a reasonably close acquaintance in the Straits Settlements—India's hinterland—Europe, and in 1914 in Virginia and Delaware. It has intrigued me greatly. I have followed the reports of every outbreak closely, and gone to considerable trouble and expense to obtain first-hand information regarding cause and effect.

The outbreak here was caused, as were those in 1902 and 1914, by the importation of smallpox virus. Animals were affected with foot-and-mouth disease for six months at Vallejo before the fact that it was that disease became known. Even then it was known only because cattle outside of the district were becoming affected.

This matter is one that should be taken up by the American National Live Stock Association, and not allowed to be submerged by any oily palaver or hidden in committee. It is only a question of time when this disease is going to get into the range cattle, as it has in Argentina; and then it will be hopeless to try to combat it at all.

I do not pretend to any unusual discernment or technical wisdom in the matter, but I do know foot-and-mouth disease, and anyone who is interested can get reports from the Department of Agriculture.

Smallpox vaccine which is manufactured in this country gradually becomes so attenuated that it is necessary to obtain a new infection. The virus imported from Japan is virus obtained from virulent human poison, direct from people suffering with smallpox, through cultures made at the laboratories in Japan.

That this virus contains the germs, microbes, or infection of the foot-and-mouth disease is plainly proved by the numerous cases cited by the Department of Agriculture, and by the fact that human beings have contracted the disease through vaccination for smallpox. This occurred in the East. My brother wrote me at the time that there were ten deaths from it—a matter which I can verify.

Having giving up the role of "prophet and reformer" many years since, I am not particularly interested in the matter; but I regret to read such rot in your paper. HAMILTON BASSETT.

"We have subscribed to your magazine, THE PRODUCER, and want to hand you a bouquet on this periodical. We enjoy reading it very much, and really feel that it contains quite a number of worth-while articles."—JOHN O. HALL, Denver, Colo.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

FEDERAL FUNDS FOR FOREST ROADS

WITH THE SIGNING of the agricultural appropriation bill by the President, \$6,000,000 was appropriated and \$4,000,000 authorized for the construction of roads and trails on national forests. Of the \$6,000,000, \$3,500,000 had previously been authorized for the fiscal year 1924. Of the remaining \$2,500,000, half is forest-highway money, which will be spent upon roads of primary importance to counties and states. The remaining half is known as forest-development money.

The apportionment of the money to the various states is as follows:

State	Forest Highway	Forest Development	State	Forest Highway	Forest Development
Alabama.....	\$ 2,100	\$ 3,104	New Mexico.....	\$165,883	\$ 94,816
Alaska.....	360,508	25,626	North Carolina.....	10,467	24,798
Arizona.....	216,507	138,346	Oklahoma.....	2,022	4,734
Arkansas.....	25,550	37,789	Oregon.....	453,093	440,922
California.....	532,846	347,724	Pennsylvania.....	1,842	9,208
Colorado.....	263,187	171,548	Porto Rico.....	519	2,734
Florida.....	7,684	4,490	South Carolina.....	586	4,712
Georgia.....	5,002	10,578	South Dakota.....	27,515	11,200
Idaho.....	399,115	589,402	Tennessee.....	7,493	12,442
Maine.....	987	2,426	Utah.....	134,899	62,872
Michigan.....	1,831	3,376	Virginia.....	10,794	24,660
Minnesota.....	23,794	21,918	Washington.....	258,478	381,492
Montana.....	315,991	405,084	West Virginia.....	3,646	7,732
Nebraska.....	3,999	5,466	Wyoming.....	175,368	124,268
Nevada.....	75,799	13,702			
New Hampshire.....	12,495	12,772	Total.....	\$3,500,000	\$3,000,000

SUPREME COURT OF UTAH DECIDES LIVE-STOCK CASE

THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH has just held the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company liable to T. M. Mumford and J. W. Mumford, under bond furnished by the Union Live Stock Commission Company of Ogden, Utah, for failure to apply the proceeds of the sale of certain cattle in payment of a draft covering the purchase price in the country. The case was based on a purchase of live stock from plaintiffs by a country buyer operating in connection with the commission company named. The buyer paid for the cattle with a draft on the commission company. The live stock was consigned to the Union Live Stock Commission Company, which, after it had secured control and sold the cattle, turned down the draft referred to and credited the proceeds to the account of the country buyer.

BUREAU OF DAIRYING ORGANIZED

A NEW BUREAU—the Bureau of Dairying—has been established in the Department of Agriculture. The act of Congress creating the bureau provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer to it such activities of his department as primarily relate to dairying. About 150 employees of the previous Dairy Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry have been shifted to the new bureau. Dr. C. W. Larson, formerly chief of the division, will head it.

PROPOSED GRAZING FEES FOR CALIFORNIA

ON JULY 1 a schedule of proposed grazing fees for cattle on the national forests of California was submitted by Paul G. Redington, district forester, to the California Cattle-men's Association for consideration by its Grazing Committee. The schedule was accompanied by a statement showing the manner in which the appraisal of the various ranges had been made. The whole state, we learn, had been considered as a unit, and the grazing value of each particular forest range had been determined by comparing it with the average rental value of private land during the ten-year period 1914-23. It was found that 30 cents per head per month for cattle and 10 cents for sheep represented a fair average value of leased land within the national forests for that period. From this thereupon were deducted varying amounts, according to cost of driving stock to forest ranges, cost of shipping to market, and investment made in improvements.

The fees per head of cattle on the various forests tentatively arrived at on this basis are as follows:

Angeles—recommended fee, 26 cents (present fee, 12 cents); California—Middle Eel, 28 (12); Upper Lake and East Slope, 28 (12); Cleveland—27 (12); Eldorado—West Slope, 29 (14); Sierra, 27 (14); Inyo—White Mountain, 24 (14); Main Sierra and Long Valley, 25 (14); Klamath—Eastern, 26 (10); Western, 23 (10); Lassen—Sacramento Valley Points, 28 (12); East Side Points, 26 (12); Modoc—26 (12); Mono—Sierra Slopes and Plateaus, 28 (14); Excelsior, 24 (14); Plumas—Main Forest, 28 (14); East Side Points, 27 (14); Santa Barbara—29 (12); Sequoia—Six Unit, 29 (14); High Mountain, 21 (14); Shasta—27 (12); Sierra—Summit, 21 (14); Lower Slopes, 28 (14); Stanislaus—West Slope, 28 (14); Summit, 26 (14); Tahoe—Main Forest, 29 (14); East Side Points, 27 (14); Trinity—East Side and Stuart Fork, 28 (10); West Side, 30 (10); New River, 24 (10). (It was later agreed, in conference with the supervisor, that only one fee should be recommended for the Trinity Forest.)

A similar schedule, covering the sheep rates and containing relatively the same advances, has been submitted to the California Wool Growers' Association.

STOCK ON NATIONAL FORESTS IN 1923

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE are shown the numbers of live stock grazed on national forests during the calendar year 1923. At the end of the table the totals for the years 1922, 1921, and 1918 are given for comparison. Heretofore only statements of the numbers authorized to be grazed in any one year have been issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. Inasmuch, however, as these represented the approximate maximum number of live stock that could be grazed on each forest, and there were many forests on which there was range in excess of the local demand, it has been thought better to change to the method of giving the number actually grazed.

It will be noted that there has been a decrease in the number of permits issued for both sheep and cattle, with a corresponding reduction in the number of animals on the forests:

CALENDAR YEAR

NUMBER OF STOCK GRAZED ON NATIONAL FORESTS

Forest	Cattle & Horses		Sheep & Goats	
District 1	1923	1924	1923	1924
Abasco	6,845		59,472	
Beartooth	4,555		29,784	
Beaverhead	27,715		74,367	
Bitterroot	2,196		17,720	
Blackfoot	142		1,296	
Cabinet	589		22,570	
Coeur d'Alene	144		1,500	
Clearwater	..		13,850	
Custer	25,646		2,000	
Deerlodge	15,072		32,183	
Flathead	174		..	
Gallatin	5,839		42,946	
Helena	15,659		52,120	
Jefferson	19,355		114,743	
Kaniksu	17		..	
Kootenai	280		..	
Lewis & Clark	7,186		21,238	
Lolo	319		17,970	
Madison	21,273		109,688	
Missoula	6,099		10,300	
Nespeet	5,940		36,858	
Pend Oreille	559		8,975	
Selway	355		9,300	
St. Joe	55		7,060	
Totals	167,045		683,640	

Forest	Cattle & Horses		Sheep & Goats	
District 2	1923	1924	1923	1924
Arapaho	10,947		16,550	
Battlement	47,987		10,723	
Bighorn	37,399		102,611	
Black Hills	20,003		3,700	
Cochatopa	18,459		52,356	
Colorado	19,224		11,950	
Gunnison	33,404		25,117	
Hartney	10,476		1,300	
Hayden	7,587		86,511	
Holy Cross	21,266		56,569	
Leadville	8,369		93,292	
Medicine Bow	9,664		42,584	
Montezuma	25,559		47,066	
Nebraska	12,692		..	
Pike	10,283		24,620	
Rio Grande	21,762		198,951	
Routt	19,000		65,000	
San Isabel	12,695		19,482	
San Juan	22,366		129,943	
Shoshone	11,700		75,411	
Uncompaggre	23,324		49,096	
Washakie	10,856		32,130	
White River	35,700		36,200	
Totals	459,220		1,192,162	

Forest	Cattle & Horses		Sheep & Goats	
District 3	1923	1924	1923	1924
Apache	35,184		24,886	
Carson	8,914		51,863	
Cocconino	42,228		74,502	
Coronado	41,808		..	
Crook	29,975		3,836	
Datil	41,863		93,492	
Gila	44,755		6,240	
Lincoln	21,421		12,726	
Mansano	7,149		41,734	
Prescott	52,231		53,805	
Santa Fe	9,262		57,833	
Sitgreaves	7,415		40,251	
Tonto	67,489		18,833	
Tusayan	18,793		59,546	
Totals	428,468		577,927	

Forest	Cattle & Horses		Sheep & Goats	
District 4	1923	1924	1923	1924
Ashley	9,888		89,699	
Boise	5,298		114,068	
Bridger (See Wyoming)	..		..
CACHE	26,660		103,142	
Caribou	20,914		233,657	
Challis	7,084		54,025	
Dixie	15,166		72,946	
Fillmore (See Fishlake)	..		..
Fishlake	32,662		91,520	
Humboldt	46,375		222,229	
Idaho	1,979		85,967	
Kaiabab	7,013		3,566	
La Sal	17,621		25,923	
Lechi	15,513		87,174	
Manti	21,501		128,282	
Minidoka	19,676		74,000	
Nevada	5,686		46,647	
Payette	6,723		116,005	
Powell	14,866		92,597	
Salmon	12,964		56,175	

PERMITS

	Cattle & Horses	Sheep & Goats
1923	27,708	5,584
1922	30,147	5,811
1921	31,027	6,214
1918	32,600	6,513

Forest	Cattle & Horses		Sheep & Goats	
District 4 (Cont.)	1923	1924	1923	1924
Swatooth	8,102		204,476	
Targhee	19,985		189,802	
Teton	15,868		..	
Tolyabe	17,089		22,191	
Uinta	34,991		195,427	
Wasatch	10,637		58,577	
Weiser	12,086		53,531	
Wyoming	34,125		265,240	
Totals	440,946		2,682,566	

Forest	Cattle & Horses		Sheep & Goats	
District 5	1923	1924	1923	1924
Angeles	2,484		..	
California	6,529		28,145	
Cleveland	1,595		..	
Eldorado	10,475		17,325	
Inyo	13,423		39,317	
Klamath	6,715		6	
Lassen	12,923		27,620	
Modoc	35,404		58,000	
Mono	5,084		97,969	
Plumas	14,139		60,497	
Santa Barbara	9,635		4,807	
Sequoia	22,250		4,200	
Shasta	7,816		22,759	
Sierra	16,245		35,300	
Stanislaus	16,655		18,457	
Tahoe	8,117		44,158	
Trinity	11,136		15,242	
Totals	200,525		473,812	

Forest	Cattle & Horses		Sheep & Goats	
District 6	1923	1924	1923	1924
Cascade	482		20,514	
Chelan	11,719		40,942	
Columbia	1,351		17,865	
Colville	5,248		20,600	
Crater	9,893		10,083	
Deschutes	3,625		21,443	
Fremont	12,637		73,429	
Malheur	27,619		74,490	
Ochoco	16,628		81,697	
Olympic	63		600	
Oregon	3,598		21,063	
Rainier	6,876		43,663	
Santiam	163		12,960	
Siskiyou	1,800		160	
Siuslaw	154		20	
Snoqualmie	..		..
Umatilla	16,429		132,896	
Umpqua	1,880		13,600	
Wallowa	18,106		59,155	
Washington	13		..	
Wenatchee	781		45,760	
Whitman	22,974		121,145	
Totals	162,058		812,055	

Forest	Cattle & Horses		Sheep & Goats	
District 7	1923	1924	1923	1924
Alabama	172		..	
Allegheny	..		..
Arkansas	752		..	
Cherokee	406		41	
Florida	817		2,440	
Laquillo	..		..
Monongahela	127		114	
Nantahala	449		210	
Natural Bridge	474		..	
Ozark	1,109		53	
Piegah	709		..	
Shenandoah	1,585		104	
Unaka	188		75	
White Mountain	311		..	
Wichita	2,518		..	
Totals	10,717		3,037	

Forest	Cattle & Horses		Sheep & Goats	
District 8	1923	1924	1923	1924
Tongass	Reindeer 100		..	
District	Summary by Districts			
1	167,045		683,640	
2	459,220		1,192,162	
3	428,468		577,927	
4	440,946		2,682,566	
5	200,525		473,812	
6	162,058		812,055	
7	10,717		3,037	
8	100 Reindeer		..	

NUMBER GRAZED

	Cattle & Horses	Sheep & Goats
1923	1,868,979	6,425,299
1922	1,984,753	6,891,589
1921	2,077,795	6,979,951
1918	2,240,010	8,512,208

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN JULY

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., August 1, 1924.

BEEF CONSUMPTION IS ENORMOUS; otherwise continuous heavy marketings of fat and half-fat steers during June and July could not have been absorbed. All through that period beef was in competition with cheap pork, as the hog market did not advance until late in July; but whenever supply fell off slightly, buyers were on the alert for cattle to fill orders. They pounded prices hard on the big runs, of which several occurred as corn advanced; but recovery was prompt. On one Monday in July shippers bought 268 cars of fat cattle in Chicago, were liberal purchasers elsewhere, and were on the market the following day with urgent orders.

Cattle Prices Zigzagging Up

Naturally it has been, and will be, an erratic market, with weekly fluctuations of 50 cents to \$1 per cwt. The advance that carried corn to \$1 per bushel had the logical effect of dislodging steers by the hundred thousand prematurely, but by the end of July the residue of the summer crop of beef was in strong hands. During the latter half of July values of the bulk of steer cattle advanced about \$1 per cwt., yearlings getting the full strength. At one time \$11 was a doubtful quotation on prime heavy steers; two weeks later \$11.50 was paid for bullocks lacking quality, and yearlings that would have been well sold around \$10.25 at the low point moved up to \$11.25. The most marked advance was on \$8.50 to \$9.50 short-fed cattle that were easily marked up \$1. In such emergencies killers invariably cheapen cost on the hooks by switching to less desirable, but serviceable, cattle. Consumers pay higher prices for beef with less quality.

Yearlings Popular in July

August found killers getting few decent steers below \$9, and the \$9 to \$10 kinds had merely been fed corn on grass. Yearlings were seasonally popular; in fact, prices of little cattle would have ruled higher right along, had it not been for the glut following the advance in corn. As July works along, yearlings always show improved condition. This time it was less marked, owing to the feed-bill; but all the western calves put in last fall have made feeders a little money, especially when well handled and eligible to bids above \$10. The pins are set for a good yearling trade late in the season, owing to the manner in which much of the season's production was sacrificed early.

Summer Hotels Have Poor Season

Summer-hotel beef trade was not up to expectation this year; in fact, the resort industry has not thrived as in recent years. Rates got abnormally high, and the public, imbued with the spirit of economy, took to the highways and camps, using countless motor cars for conveyance. The junketing habit is less conducive to beef consumption than summer-hotel life, but stimulates the use of hams, bacon, and other cured hog products. Nevertheless, beef consumption has been healthy, despite some unemployment.

Public Wants Quality in Beef

The public is still in a mood to pay for quality, which accounts for a wide spread between corn-fed and grass steers,

especially cows and heifers that have been grained, and grassy stuff. The yearling-heifer deal has been gratifying in view of what happened last year, and good cows, which have been scarce—especially the \$7 to \$8.50 varieties—have been stable during wide fluctuations in steers.

Spurt in Hog Trade

When the forecasters had been discredited, and swine-growers had despaired of getting the market out of its \$7 rut, an unprecedented boom developed. Even during war-period eccentricity no precedent for what happened on this occasion was established. On July 7 the top price of hogs at Chicago was \$7.30; on July 29 \$11.15 was paid. The first two days of the last week of the month an average advance of \$1.50 per cwt. was scored, and in a single week top hogs gained \$2.40 per cwt. A \$3 advance during the latter part of July was practically continuous, and on one session light stuff gained as much as 85 cents.

Corn Advance Delays Boom

Hog values would have advanced thirty days previously, had it not been for the advance in corn, which kept the market constantly glutted with pigs and underweights. These sold anywhere from \$5.50 to \$6.50, flooding the dressed market with light pork cuts and necessitating heavy freezing operations. When the turn finally came, summer trading conditions were established almost overnight. Until the last week of July big hogs held the premium; when they lost it, lights went past them with a rush.

Big Packers Not Responsible for Rise

The significant phase of the episode is that the big packers were not responsible even in a remote degree. They resisted the advance persistently and consistently, bidding \$1 under asking prices during the pyrotechnical display. Their smaller competitors, who continue to display surprising virility, set the pace, and were apparently able to merchandise the product at a profit.

Twelve Dollars a September Possibility

Twelve-dollar light hogs are a September possibility. After the strenuous liquidation of the past six months, the country cannot be in position to continue the heavy movement, although the big packers have been skeptical of material subsidence in the movement right along.

Hogs on Parity with Corn

Hogs have gone on a parity with corn, and may stay there for a while. They may even secure an advantage over corn; but the relative positions of the two commodities must forever shift. Last year the country was full of corn, stimulating production of hogs to consume it. Then came the partial corn-crop failure of 1923, which found the country congested with hogs, necessitating liquidation—a process that has been prac-

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tically accomplished, as the July government estimate puts hog production during the ensuing twelve months at 20 per cent less than the previous period. Make the decrease 10 per cent, and it is doubtful if there will be more than enough pork and lard to go around, as both commodities are being consumed in unprecedented quantities. The line between deficiency and sufficiency is barely perceptible, so that when the hog run was cut in two almost overnight the resultant boom was logical.

Inferior Stuff Follows Leaders

A high market for good hogs naturally pulls less desirable grades up with it, but a wide spread between quality and mediocrity is inevitable. Good hogs get competition, while the big packers take the others at their own price. When shippers were paying around \$11 for good hogs late in July, packers bid \$8.50 for packing sows and grassy mixed stuff. At this season trash is always plentiful—nature seems to have ordained it.

Situation Hopeful for Hog-Grower

There is nothing about the situation or the prospect to discourage those located to grow hogs economically. Stocks of meats and lard are anything but burdensome, other meats are relatively dear, and the American people are pork-eaters.

Advance Helps Packers' Finances

Incidentally, the July advance in hogs should have put a lot of money into packers' coffers, and probably has. Their cellars are full of the product of cheap hogs, and they are in a position to market the stuff conservatively. This allegation they do not deny; falling back, however, on the stereotyped contention that they are losing money on beef.

Some Gas Let Out of Hog Balloon

Collapse of the late July boom in hogs was logical. At Chicago the top dropped in three days from \$11.15 to \$9.75 per cwt.; but at that juncture shipping orders came to the relief of salesmen, and the big packers, who had resisted the advance by staying out of the market, concluded that they could use a few hogs. The explosion which carried top prices above \$11 demonstrated that the market had been below an intrinsic-value basis at \$7, and the reaction on the break suggests legitimacy of a \$10 basis. In any event, the hog market is out of the rut, pork is no longer dirt-cheap, and beef has been relieved of that competition.

July Rise in Lambs of Short Duration

Rigorous bear pressure has been applied in the sheep and lamb market since the summer set in. Coincident with the June run of native lambs and the advent of westerns, prices were carried down to the low level of the season. Early July witnessed a substantial reaction that carried top western lambs

to \$15.25; but the rise proved ephemeral. Killers' objective point was the 1923 basis of prices, but they never made it. Supply has run close to the corresponding period of 1923, but condition has been lower, and top lambs have been fewer. Somewhat singularly, this has not been detrimental to cull lambs, which have sold readily at good prices, in a comparative sense.

Early Lamb Crop Marketed

By August the bulk of the early crop of lambs—westerns and natives—was in. The best information available indicated that the second crop of western lambs would carry a short fat top and a long feeder end, owing to drought in many lamb-raising sections; but feeders have ignored this, paying \$12 to \$12.50 for light second cuts of western lambs. Packers' evident purpose is to buy lambs as low as possible, on the theory that they may run into a shortage later in the season. Native lambs have been marketed early and in sappy condition this season.

Scarcity Forces Sheep Prices Up

The sheep phase of the trade deserves comment. Killers need little heavy mutton, but that little they must have; consequently, when they experienced hard picking recently they were forced to let values advance anywhere from \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt., good light ewes selling up to \$7 in July, and heavy stuff to \$5.50, the latter being the kind selling around \$4 a few weeks previously. Wethers have disappeared, in a commercial sense, and a load of genuine yearlings is a novelty. Day after day the market gets a crop in which lambs predominate—which is what the public demands.

\$13.95 on August 1 for Top Lambs

From a \$13.50 top on the late June break, western lambs advanced to \$15.25, when the bear campaigners again got busy with success. The second week \$14.65 was the top; the third week nothing passed \$14.50, with the exception of an odd picked bunch at \$15; and the week of July 26 put the top down to \$14.25. Early in the week of August 2, \$13.95 was the limit, the bulk of all lambs selling then at \$13 to \$13.65. Such yearlings as are available are selling at \$10.50 to \$11.50, wethers around \$8, and most of the fat ewes at \$5.50 to \$6.50.

Western Run Due in September

The big western lamb run is due from early September on. What it will realize is anybody's guess. Killers intend to replenish coolers at the lowest figure possible, but may be under the necessity of paying right around current quotations, as, when Jersey City gets through, eastern demand will reassert itself. The feeder prospect is somewhat obscure, although up to early August there was an apparently unlimited outlet for light western lambs to go on grass at \$12 to \$12.25, and for



Effective Marketing an Important Factor in Determining Profit

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heavier stock at \$11 to \$11.50. Corn-crop developments will have considerable to do with making the fall feeder market, western lambs going out at present being destined for grass, which is abundant.

Feeding Lambs and Breeding Ewes Advance

An insatiable demand for feeding lambs and breeding ewes developed early in August. Feeding lambs advanced 50 cents per cwt., selling at \$12 to \$12.75, and it was impossible to get down bids on breeding stock. Idaho yearling ewes sold at \$11.50, and are headed to higher levels, as the whole Corn Belt

and eastern section of the country are eager to get back in the sheep business. If the late run of western sheep and lambs can be regulated reasonably, a high market for everything seems assured. Packers are buying straight bands of western lambs, sorting off the feeder end themselves, that nothing fit to kill may escape them.

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STOCKER MARKET AND CORN CROP

J. E. P.

WHEN THE FAT-CATTLE MARKET began to work out of the somewhat demoralized rut into which it was thrown by the boom that carried corn above the dollar mark, feeders showed signs of interest. For weeks previously they were practically out of the market, putting killers under the necessity of taking nearly everything wearing a hide. A neglected bargain sale resulted; but toward the end of July feeders began picking up light steers weighing 450 to 800 pounds, at prices ranging from \$4.50 to \$6.50. They also took a few steers to go on corn at \$7 to \$7.75; but there has been marked indisposition to put money into cattle, despite the fact that the entire Mississippi Valley has been full of feed. Pastures were belly-deep, and an immense hay crop has been garnered, creating opportunity to graze down cost. As there has been no scarcity of money, this condition was, to a large extent, psychological, and in striking contrast to what happened a year ago when July and August developed a heavy feeder movement from markets to the country, insuring a plenitude of fat cattle during the last quarter of the year.

Meanwhile the growing corn crop has been discrediting forecasts of scarcity. Somehow or other, the trade has a pronounced habit of getting wrong concerning corn; in fact, the July bull movement in that grain was overdue six months, and now that it has happened nearly everybody is saying: "I told you so." The 1923 crop was a failure, as August was a cold, wet month, and September brought frost. This year the early part of the season has been cold and wet, but the acreage was large, July produced rapid growth, and with a warm August and a frostless September, always possible, a 2,800,000,000-bushel corn crop will be probable. Even less than that aggregate yield will produce far more feed than the low-quality crop

of 1923. Consequently the new crop prospect is far better than it has been advertised. And there is more old corn back on the farms than is generally suspected, although there is a disposition to husband it.

The stock-cattle market at the inception of August was ripe for a period of activity. Let corn do as well during the ensuing thirty days as it has done in the same period recently, and everybody will take an interest in stock cattle, especially if the fat-cattle market is equal to a creditable performance meanwhile, as it promises to be. With corn-fed steers selling at \$10.50 to \$11.50, paying \$8 to \$9 for fleshy steers is by no means doubtful policy, although hazard is inseparable from the operation. By the time western cattle get well under way late in August, the feeder market will in all probability have discarded its recent apathy. In the event of frost early in September, a lot of soft corn is certain, and cattle will be needed in considerable numbers to salvage it.

There is a disposition among feeders to get as many cattle as possible for their money, which is not in accordance with up-to-date methods; but, as cheap steers have been profitable in recent years, they will get by this season on that performance, regardless of cost of feed.

The movement of stock cattle from sixty-seven markets to the country during the first half of 1924 was 10.6 per cent less than in 1923. The June movement fell off 14 per cent, and July was correspondingly light. On the other hand, slaughter showed a gain of 2.1 per cent during the six-month period, compared with last year, but beef production showed an even greater shrinkage, average live weight of cattle marketed being 962 pounds, compared with 969 pounds last year, and dressed weight 521 pounds, against 533 pounds last year.

THE KANSAS CITY MARKET

BY M. Y. GRIFFIN

[Bureau of Agricultural Economics]

KANSAS CITY, Mo., August 1, 1924.

ALTHOUGH JULY RECEIPTS of cattle totaled 12,000 more than June, prices on most killing classes show considerable improvement. Grain-feds and the better grades of grassers are meeting a fairly broad demand, but buyers are discriminating against plain grassy descriptions. Corn-fed steers and yearlings are closing \$1 to \$1.50 higher, with spots on the better grades of light yearlings fully \$2 up. Choice handy-weights topped at \$11.30, while best matured steers cashed at \$11.25. The bulk of the fed steers and yearlings on late days brought from \$8.75 to \$10.85. Kansas grass steers are selling at \$7 to \$8.50, and Oklahoma and Texas offerings range largely from \$5 to \$6.50. Cake-feds are bringing from \$7.35 to \$9.10, depending on weight and finish. Grain-fed cows and heifers advanced 25 to 50 cents, but lower grades of she-stock held about steady with June's closing prices. Most of the beef cows arriving late in the month went at \$3.50 to \$6, and heifers at \$4.50 to \$8. Vealers advanced 50 cents to \$1, while heavier grades of calves held barely steady. Packers are paying \$8.50 for choice veals, and taking the weightier kinds at \$3 to \$6. Stockers and feeders show very little price improvement, although fleshy feeders are meeting a fairly broad demand. Numerous lots of Kansas grassers are going on country account at \$7.25 to \$8.75, with stock steers mostly at \$5 to \$7.

The month of July witnessed one of the most erratic hog markets in recent years. Trading was featured with sharp fluctuations in prices, and closing levels are practically \$2 higher than the final session in June. On July 2 top butchers sold at \$7.05, which was the lowest day since the last of February. Prices advanced gradually during the next two weeks,

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until best hogs sold at \$7.95. During the following ten days shipper buyers carried urgent orders, and price levels scored remarkable gains. The pinnacle was reached on July 29, when best medium-weight butchers landed \$10.75. This was \$3.70 above the low time early in the month, and the highest price paid locally since September, 1922. Big packers, however, were very bearish at times and refused to follow the pace set by shippers. On the high day the packer top was \$1 under that of the extreme top of order buyers. At the close both packers and shippers paid up to \$9.25 for best butchers, regardless of weight, and the bulk of better kinds cashed from \$9 to \$9.25.

Although lamb prices have experienced sharp fluctuations, totaling in extreme cases more than \$1.50 in a single week, the month is closing with values around 25 cents higher than prices current at the close of June. Colorado lambs made the month's top price on two successive Mondays at \$14.35, and a moderate supply of range arrivals sold largely from \$12.75 to \$13.50. On the high spot, natives reached \$14.25, but the price spread of \$12.25 to \$13.25 includes the bulk of the better grades. Sheep have been in limited supply, and prices advanced steadily until closing values show fully \$1 gain. The run of grass-fat sheep from Texas has dwindled to negligible proportions, and a few fat wethers arriving late in the month landed around \$8. Desirable light-weight Colorado ewes went for slaughter at \$6 to \$6.75. Country call for breeding ewes holds up well, and the best arriving are selling readily at \$8 to \$8.50. Feeding-lamb prices advanced sharply, with the best at the close at \$11.75, and others at \$11.15 to \$11.50.

THE OMAHA MARKET

BY CHARLES BRUCE

[Bureau of Agricultural Economics]

OMAHA, NEB., August 1, 1924.

A SEASONABLE READJUSTMENT was noticeable in the July market for cattle. There was a marked shrinkage in supplies, and, with the decrease, a keener competition for the better grades of corn-fed steers, yearlings, and fat she-stock, with resultant advances. As is usual with a rising market for strictly dry-lot kinds, there was difficulty in determining the status of the trade on native grassers, but quotations reflect little change from the first of the month. At the close, the high point for corn-feds claimed a limit of \$11.50, with the

bulk moving at a spread of \$8.75 to \$11; these prices reflecting a net advance of approximately 50 cents to \$1. Receipts have included only limited supplies of long-fed cows and heifers, and these shared in the gains registered on fed steers, while grassers have barely held steady. Bulls showed wide fluctuations, but finished about steady. Veal calves came in for the summer slump, closing about a dollar lower than a month ago. Supplies of range stockers and feeders have been scattering, and have shown little change from day to day, closing values being around 25 cents better than a month ago. There have been a few sales of grain-conditioned steers to feeder buyers at upward from \$7.50, but the bulk of the strictly green stockers and feeders have been at a spread of \$6 to \$7.25, with a few upward to \$7.50, and medium and common light steers downward to \$5 and less. The bulk of stock cows and heifers are moving at \$2.75 to \$5, and breeding heifers up to \$5.50.

Unprecedented advances featured the hog trade during the month, upturns for the period July 1 to July 22 being as much as \$3.60 per cwt., and the top reaching \$10.50. Shippers set the pace, and the local packers trailed, taking only enough hogs to supply immediate needs. This attitude resulted in a bear raid on values during the closing week, when there was a partial loss noted, the closing price range reflecting a net advance over a month ago of \$1.75 to \$2.25. A feature of the trade has been the readjustment of grades favored, medium and light-weight butchers clearing to best advantage.

The July market on fat lambs followed a sharply lower trend early in the month, but with improvement toward the close cutting down the declines registered. The big end of the receipts has been from the States of Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon, with some shipments, for immediate slaughter only, arriving late in the month from California. Compared with the close of June, fat-lamb values are quoted 25 to 50 cents lower. Sheep have been in limited supply, and this branch of the trade has reflected an upturn, fat ewes clearing at the close on a basis 50 cents higher than a month ago. Inquiry for feeding lambs has been broad and the price trend upward, an advance of 75 cents to \$1 being registered over closing June values, with the bulk of range feeding lambs moving at a spread of \$11.75 to \$12.25.

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THE PORTLAND MARKET

[Bureau of Agricultural Economics]

NORTH PORTLAND, ORE., August 1, 1924.

SHORT RECEIPTS featured the records of arrivals of live stock at North Portland during July. The lighter runs bolstered the cattle market, and some of the losses registered late in June were partially restored. Steers and she-stock are steady to 50 cents higher, while veal calves, which took a remarkable spurt upward late in July, are from \$1 to as much as \$2.50 above June's closing levels. Grain-fed steers and she-stock still are absent. The bulk of the common and medium steers at the close of July were selling around \$6 to \$7.50, with only scattering lots in fairly good killing flesh reaching \$8. Top price paid throughout the month of July was \$8.60. Most of the cows and heifers during the last three weeks have been the kinds ranging from \$3.50 to \$5.50, with a sprinkling of good heifers up to \$6. Cannery and cutters are landing mostly from \$2 to \$3. The bulk of the good and choice light veal calves during the past week sold readily from \$10 to \$10.50, with weighty kinds and thin-fleshed light-weights mostly from \$6 to \$9.50.

The trend of hog prices has been upward throughout the month, but the sharp advances were made mostly near the close. An extreme top of \$11.10 was scored July 30—the highest price paid at Portland since October, 1922. Weightier butchers are now selling from \$10.50 down, and heavy packers and throw-outs are ranging from \$7 to \$9. Desirable slaughter pigs are cashing from \$9.50 to \$10.25, and the popular price range for feeder pigs is \$8.50 to \$9.50.

Despite the material decrease in sheep and lamb receipts, trading in the sheep-house has been dull and sluggish, although no remarkable price changes have been scored. Best Mount Adams lambs now are quotable at \$10.25, as against \$11 a month ago, and good Valley offerings, that made \$10 without difficulty at the end of June, are now having their troubles in reaching \$9.75. Yearlings have arrived in such limited numbers as to make quotations practically nominal throughout the month. A few shorn yearlings have cleared from \$7.50 to \$8, if approaching choice quality and of handy weights, the weightier kinds usually stopping at \$6.50. Shorn wethers have sold generally at \$6.50 to \$7. Most of the fat ewes on display have been handicapped either by excessive weight or by unsatisfactory killing flesh. The bulk of offerings cleared from \$3.50 to \$4.50, though a few short strings of good to near-choice handy-weight ewes have reached \$5.

PROSPECTS FOR WESTERN CATTLE

J. E. P.

GRASS CATTLE from the Northwest did not show up at the market in considerable numbers during July, but each succeeding week created better conditions for their reception. Late in July it was the consensus of trade opinion that a drove of good Montana grassers would have been eligible to \$10. Odd lots from drought sections straggled in, most of them going to feeders at low prices. Drought in western Canada was adver-

tised by the arrival of several strings from that quarter. On Monday of the third week of July a train of double-wintered Texans from the pastures of the Dana Cattle Company of Montana reached Chicago. They were picked too early, lacked fat, and sold at \$7.25 for the horned cattle, averaging 1,120 pounds, and \$7.40 for the dehorned, averaging 1,140 pounds.

With heavy corn-fed cattle working back to the \$12 mark, no possibility of a surplus of corn-feds of any weight or type, beef consumption broad, and competition among killers keen, the western grass-beef season should be active, especially if feeders step into the arena. Beef is no longer competing with cheap pork, and, if grassers come decently fat, their product will find a prompt outlet. The recently dilapidated hide market is rounding to, and, if credence can be given western advices, there will be fewer cattle from that quarter than last year.

Several years ago the theory was advanced by Murdo MacKenzie that Corn Belt feeders would consult their own interest by reducing short-feeding for the September-to-December markets. This year necessity has forced them to adopt this policy; in fact, there will be few long-fed cattle during that period, and none too many of the sixty- to ninety-day-fed type. If the western cattleman has some fat beef to drop into the market this fall, it should realize much better prices than in recent years. The stage is being well set, unless something happens to disturb it.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-five markets for the month of June, 1924, compared with June, 1923, and for the six months ending with June, 1924 and 1923:

RECEIPTS

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Cattle.....	1,673,428	1,629,282	10,215,337	10,005,086
Hogs.....	4,296,396	4,204,101	29,411,959	27,771,207
Sheep.....	1,549,997	1,425,889	8,718,124	9,099,054

TOTAL SHIPMENTS*

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Cattle.....	630,590	641,589	3,807,137	3,800,367
Hogs.....	1,416,859	1,408,720	10,761,762	9,503,716
Sheep.....	649,835	638,507	4,013,078	4,151,732

*Includes stockers and feeders.

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Cattle.....	201,451	234,330	1,302,072	1,457,056
Hogs.....	28,870	62,989	280,534	405,007
Sheep.....	152,518	116,944	714,109	869,191

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Cattle.....	1,029,994	989,991	6,340,240	6,155,275
Hogs.....	2,851,895	2,810,096	18,614,722	18,256,096
Sheep.....	903,356	790,511	4,716,319	4,944,193

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WESTERN RANGE PRICES

THE DANA CATTLE COMPANY, owned by the American Live Stock and Loan Company of Denver, had about the first sizable shipment of western rangers on the Chicago market this season, from the Crow Reservation in Montana. The shipment of July 21 averaged 1,125 to 1,176 pounds, and sold at \$7.25 to \$7.40. On July 29 a trainload averaged 1,105 to 1,210 pounds, selling at \$7.35 to \$7.60. These prices average about 50 cents per hundred pounds higher than the initial shipments of last year.

Prices to producers have ranged mostly from \$9 to \$9.50 per 100 pounds, f. o. b. ranch, with a top of \$10.50. Transportation charges to slaughtering points usually have run from \$1 to \$1.50, while the cost of delivery to eastern markets has been from \$6 to \$7 per 100 pounds. Charges for shipping the animals alive to Omaha or Chicago would have been from \$2 to \$2.25.

CALIFORNIA SHIPPING DRESSED LAMBS EAST

AN INNOVATION in the marketing of spring lambs from California has been tried out this summer. Confronted with a serious emergency, in that the regulations established by other states as a protection against the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease prevented the shipment of live lambs to outside markets, producers were compelled to resort to unusual methods. As a result, they killed the lambs at home. A few experimental shipments of dressed lamb from the Pacific coast states have been made in previous years, but not until this season have such shipments been attempted on a large scale. Up to the end of June approximately 200,000 lamb carcasses had thus been sent out of California to middle-western and eastern markets. Compared with this, in 1923 about 276,000 lambs were shipped out alive.

Lack of adequate slaughtering facilities was one of the difficulties in the way of marketing this year's lamb crop. Many packing-plants were without federal inspection, which prevented them from moving their meats in interstate commerce. This situation was met by making certain temporary changes, qualifying the plants for operating under government inspection.

WOOL TRADE REVIVING

J. E. P.

AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS of jockeying and horse-play, the wool market came back. At the middle of July there were symptoms of a boom, but it was speedily checked. During the depression period, when the trade resorted to megaphone, radio, and other expedients for the obvious purpose of knocking a hole in the bottom of the market, wool was picked up in considerable quantities at prices that showed profits of 3 to 4 cents per pound on the July rise. It was the old game, worked in the same old way as effectively as ever. Before the July rise developed, about 90 per cent of the western clip was out of growers' hands.

Basically, the situation is as sound as ever; it always was sound, and there is no apparent reason for concern regarding the future. Talk is cheap, and the coterie of wool bears down east is well qualified in the matter of chin dysentery. Conditions have, however, undergone a favorable change during the past thirty days. The clothing market has picked up, especially women's wear; labor troubles in the New York clothing industry have been adjusted, and discovery has been made of the fact that stocks of many lines of goods are low, as a result of hand-to-mouth buying during the past year, drastic curtailment by mills, and other factors.

A conviction is growing that wools are selling in this coun-

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try much below a parity with foreign markets, when allowance is made for the tariff, which has developed buying interest. That world's stocks are low is admitted, as are also stocks in this country. Woolen and worsted mills have been running on a basis 60 to 70 per cent of normal, which means restricted production of clothing. While consumers may not be purchasing freely, such restriction must eventuate in bare shelves.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of storage holdings of frozen and cured meats on July 1, 1924, as compared with July 1, 1923, and average holdings on July 1 for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	July 1, 1924	July 1, 1923	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	37,038,000	34,385,000	80,087,000
*Cured beef.....	22,305,000	22,835,000	23,449,000
Lamb and mutton.....	2,919,000	3,556,000	5,516,000
*Frozen pork.....	187,415,000	217,074,000	170,703,000
*Dry salt pork.....	209,648,000	217,862,000	289,196,000
*Pickled pork.....	470,922,000	473,569,000	411,499,000
Miscellaneous.....	69,972,000	71,470,000	78,702,000
Totals.....	1,000,219,000	1,040,751,000	1,059,152,000
Lard.....	152,685,000	123,896,000	153,580,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

ADVANCING HIDE MARKET

STEADY ADVANCES have lately been recorded in hide prices, and packers are rapidly cleaning up their stocks. At the close of July heavy native steers were selling at 15 cents a pound, extreme light native steers at 14 cents, and light native cows at 13½ cents. Packer calfskins were active at 22 to 22½ cents. Extreme weights in country hides were in demand at 12 to 12½ cents.

FEEDSTUFFS

COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL have advanced approximately \$8 per ton during the past sixty days. On August 4 the price of these articles, 43 per cent protein content, f. o. b. Texas points, was \$40. Prices for hay on August 2 at Kansas City were as follows: Prairie—No. 1, \$12 to \$12.50; No. 2, \$10 to \$11.50; No. 3, \$7 to \$9.50; packing, \$5 to \$6.50; alfalfa—select dairy, \$22 to \$23; No. 1, \$19.50 to \$20.50; standard, \$16 to \$19; No. 2, \$13.50 to \$15.50; No. 3, \$9 to \$13; timothy—No. 1, \$15 to \$15.50; standard, \$13.50 to \$14.50; No. 2, \$10 to \$13; No. 3, \$10.50 to \$11.50; clover-mixed—light, \$15 to \$15.50; No. 1, \$13.50 to \$14.50; No. 2, \$10 to \$13; clover, new crop—No. 1, \$15 to \$16; No. 2, \$11 to \$14.50; straw—\$8.50 to \$9.

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LIVE-STOCK MARKET QUOTATIONS

Friday, August 1, 1924

CATTLE AND CALVES

STEERS (1,100 lbs. up):	CHICAGO	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA
Choice and Prime.....	\$11.15-11.85	\$10.75-11.35	\$10.75-11.60
Good	10.10-11.25	9.50-10.85	9.75-10.75
Medium	7.40-10.25	7.50- 9.60	7.85- 9.75
Common	5.75- 7.90	5.40- 7.75	5.75- 8.00
STEERS (1,100 lbs. down):			
Choice and Prime.....	10.75-11.60	10.65-11.25	10.50-11.60
Good	9.90-11.15	9.00-10.75	9.60-10.75
Medium	7.25-10.10	6.50- 9.10	7.50- 9.75
Common	5.25- 7.40	5.00- 6.50	5.35- 7.85
Canners and Cutters.....	3.50- 5.25	3.50- 5.00	3.75- 5.35
LIGHT YEARLING STEERS AND HEIFERS:			
Good to Prime.....	9.00-11.25	8.65-10.50	8.50-10.60
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice.....	7.85-10.00	6.50- 9.00	7.00- 9.85
Common to Medium.....	4.50- 7.85	3.50- 6.50	4.00- 7.00
COWS:			
Good to Choice.....	5.50- 8.50	5.15- 7.75	5.65- 8.50
Common to Medium.....	3.50- 5.60	3.25- 5.15	3.75- 5.65
Canners and Cutters.....	2.00- 3.50	2.15- 3.25	2.00- 3.75
BULLS:			
Good to Choice.....	4.85- 7.00	4.75- 5.35	4.50- 6.50
Canners to Medium.....	3.00- 4.90	3.00- 4.75	3.00- 4.50
CALVES:			
Medium to Choice (190 lbs. down).....	7.75-10.50	6.00- 8.50	6.25- 8.50
Culls to Common (190 lbs. down).....	5.00- 8.00	3.00- 6.00	3.75- 6.25
Medium to Choice (190 to 260 lbs.).....	5.00-10.25	4.25- 8.25	4.00- 8.00
Medium to Choice (260 lbs. up).....	3.75- 6.75	4.00- 6.50	3.50- 6.50
Culls to Common (190 lbs. up).....	3.00- 7.50	3.00- 4.00	3.00- 6.00
FEEDERS AND STOCKERS—			
STEERS:			
Common to Choice (750 lbs. up).....	5.50- 8.25	5.00- 8.65	5.25- 8.50
Common to Choice (750 lbs. down).....	4.50- 7.50	4.25- 7.75	4.25- 8.00
Inferior (all weights).....	3.50- 4.50	3.00- 4.50	3.25- 4.25
COWS AND HEIFERS:			
Common to Choice.....	3.25- 5.25	2.50- 5.75	2.50- 5.75
CALVES:			
Common to Choice.....		3.50- 6.50	4.00- 6.75

HOGS

Top	\$ 9.75	\$ 9.25	\$ 9.10
Bulk of Sales.....	8.00- 9.40	8.75- 9.25	7.75- 9.00
Heavy Weight, Medium to Choice.....	9.20- 9.60	8.90- 9.25	8.50- 9.10
Medium Weight, Medium to Choice.....	9.40- 9.75	9.00- 9.25	8.50- 9.10
Light Weight, Common to Choice.....	9.20- 9.75	8.90- 9.25	8.00- 9.10
Light Lights, Common to Choice.....	8.25- 9.45	7.75- 8.75	7.00- 9.00
Packing Hogs, Smooth.....	7.90- 8.30	7.60- 7.85	7.75- 8.25
Packing Hogs, Rough.....	7.50- 7.90	7.40- 7.60	7.25- 7.75
Slaughter Pigs, Medium to Choice.....	7.50- 8.50	6.50- 8.00	
Feeder and Stocker Pigs, Com. to Ch.....		7.75- 9.50	6.25- 7.25

SHEEP AND LAMBS

LAMBS:			
Medium to Prime.....	\$11.50-14.00	\$11.25-13.75	\$11.75-13.65
Culls and Common.....	8.25-11.50	6.75-11.25	8.25-11.75
YEARLING WETHERS:			
Medium to Prime.....	8.75-11.75	8.50-11.50	8.50-11.65
WETHERS:			
Medium to Prime.....	5.50- 9.75	5.25- 8.85	5.00- 8.50
EWES:			
Common to Choice.....	4.00- 7.75	3.25- 7.00	3.75- 6.50
Canners and Culls.....	1.00- 4.00	1.00- 3.25	1.00- 3.75
FEEDING LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice.....	10.75-12.75		10.50-12.25

Italy's Wheat Harvest Reduced

Forecasts of Italy's wheat crop for 1924 name 176,386,000 bushels as the probable production, compared with 224,836,000 bushels last year.

Meat Exports from New Zealand

Advices from New Zealand give the following totals of shipments of meat from that country during the 1923-24 season (November to May): beef quarters, 129,939; mutton carcasses, 997,546; lamb carcasses, 2,836,015.

TRADE REVIEW

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS FOR FISCAL YEAR

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS and animal fats for the month of June and the twelve months ending June, 1924, as compared with June, 1923, and the previous fiscal year, were as below (in pounds):

BEEF PRODUCTS

Articles	June		Twelve Months Ending June	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Beef, fresh.....	123,715	212,338	3,817,168	4,016,732
Beef, pickled, etc.....	1,902,431	2,106,883	21,850,981	24,185,263
Beef, canned.....	74,124	170,633	1,591,404	2,312,480
Olco oil.....	7,695,845	8,018,633	92,965,001	104,956,378
Totals.....	9,796,115	10,508,487	120,224,554	135,470,853

PORK PRODUCTS

Articles	June		Twelve Months Ending June	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Pork, fresh.....	1,256,314	10,093,264	49,112,616	43,771,610
Pork, pickled.....	2,006,631	2,977,123	37,469,399	40,933,756
Bacon.....	14,645,160	28,641,168	423,500,044	408,334,340
Hams and shoulders.....	29,499,468	30,831,494	381,563,734	319,269,073
Sausage, canned.....	331,291	193,400	3,213,537	2,693,636
Lard.....	59,475,108	64,605,237	1,014,898,388	952,641,705
Neutral lard.....	2,384,644	1,182,495	24,238,981	26,494,079
Lard compounds.....	588,959	555,796	6,907,366	11,139,730
Margarine.....	66,989	100,326	1,124,394	2,027,546
Totals.....	110,254,564	139,180,303	1,942,028,459	1,807,305,475

Exports of grains and wheat flour were as follows:

GRAINS

Articles	June		Twelve Months Ending June	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Wheat (bu.).....	4,974,634	9,252,283	78,793,034	154,950,971
Corn (bu.).....	876,705	1,918,064	21,186,344	94,064,053
Rye (bu.).....	3,708,317	3,877,443	17,704,561	51,411,550
Oats (bu.).....	58,183	100,208	1,148,776	18,573,603
Barley (bu.).....	512,760	361,817	11,208,733	18,192,809
Rice (lbs.).....	2,453,863	22,889,246	190,616,142	318,940,870
Wheat flour (bbl.).....	1,173,812	806,332	17,252,620	14,882,714

Total exports of meats and meat products from the United States during the twelve months ending June, 1924, amounted to 1,004,864,644 pounds—an increase of 85,833,675 pounds, or more than 9 per cent, over the last fiscal year. Increases in exports of hams and shoulders, bacon, and fresh pork are largely responsible for this gain. The value of these commodities during 1924, however, was \$4,778,600 less than the value of the exports during the corresponding period of 1923. Average value of meat products for the last twelve months was approximately 13.78 cents per pound, as compared with 15.59 cents for the same period ending June, 1923.

Domestic exports of animal fats and oils for the year amounted to 1,289,129,757 pounds, representing an increase of about 6 per cent over those of the twelve months ending June, 1923. Average value increased from 11.87 cents per pound in 1923 to 12.26 cents per pound for the corresponding period of 1924. Lard exports alone for the year were 62,256,683 pounds greater than those of last year.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE DURING LAST FISCAL YEAR

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, totaled \$4,311,625,797, which was 9 per cent more than in 1922-23. Imports were \$3,557,147,532—a decrease of 5.8 per cent from last year. Excess of exports thus amounted to \$754,478,265—nearly five times the excess for the previous fiscal year. Foreign trade in June was smaller, both in exports and in imports, than a year ago. The complete figures (preliminary for June) follow:

	June		Twelve Months Ending June	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Exports.....	\$307,000,000	\$319,956,953	\$4,311,625,797	\$3,956,733,373
Imports.....	277,000,000	320,233,799	3,557,147,532	3,780,958,966
Excess of exports.....	\$ 30,000,000	\$ *276,846	\$ 754,478,265	\$ 175,774,408

*Excess of imports.

The falling-off in imports for the fiscal year was wholly due to reduced imports of raw materials. Imports of manufactured goods remained practically unchanged.

During the twelve months from July 1, 1923, to June 30, 1924, imports of gold into the United States aggregated \$417,025,638, while exports were only \$10,206,941, leaving a balance of \$406,818,697. For the previous fiscal year the excess of gold imports was \$235,067,575.

NO INCREASE IN WORLD'S WOOL PRODUCTION

THAT NO MATERIAL GROWTH in the world's wool production is likely in the near future, is the opinion of statisticians in the Department of Agriculture. Latest estimates from countries having 1,000,000 or more sheep aggregate 499,380,000 head, as against 568,617,000 head just previous to the war. (Compare with this the present number of 535,940,000 in ninety-four countries with the pre-war total of 624,326,000, as given in the June PRODUCER.)

Imports of wool into the United States have steadily increased, until today they are at least twice as large as the average for the years 1900 to 1904. Supplies from abroad have in some recent years greatly exceeded domestic production. More than 20 per cent of our clothing wool comes from Argentina, while as much or more is derived from Australia, either direct or by way of the United Kingdom. China contributes between 30 and 45 per cent of our carpet wool, and Argentina and Australia a large percentage of our combing wool.

The wool clip of Australia during the season of 1922-23 was about 600,000,000 pounds, compared with an average of between 700,000,000 and 720,000,000 pounds for 1909-13. New Zealand in 1922-23 produced 167,000,000 pounds, compared with 186,000,000 pounds in 1914 and 199,000,000 pounds in 1918. Statistics from Argentina are not available, but it is known that the number of sheep in that republic decreased greatly during the war.

In 1923 the United States produced about 266,000,000 pounds of wool, the United Kingdom 102,000,000 pounds, South Africa between 175,000,000 and 185,000,000 pounds, and Uruguay (in 1922) from 85,000,000 to 90,000,000 pounds. Exports from Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa, which countries supply most of the wool entering into world trade, were smaller than those in 1922 and, with the exception of New Zealand, below the pre-war average.

Each of the heavy importing countries of Europe—the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Belgium—took less wool in 1923 than during the preceding year, and much less than in 1909-13.

FOREIGN

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALASIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, June 14, 1924.

NOW THAT ALL THE QUEENSLAND PACKING-HOUSES, with the exception of one small plant in the Brisbane district, are in full commission, treating cattle for the frozen-beef export trade, considerable movement is taking place with fats. Mobs are working toward the trucking-yards from all quarters, and the railroad authorities are being hard pressed to supply the necessary trucks. So far there has been no material delay, and reports agree that the stock received to date is killing out somewhat better than was the case last year. Obviously the more kindly seasonal conditions account for that, as they do for the expectation, lately expressed, that the total number of cattle slaughtered for export purposes will be greater than in 1923.

Last season the aggregate put through all the Queensland meat-works was just short of 250,000 head, and it is now thought that at least 300,000 will be available this winter. An increase of 50,000 does not sound much, but cattlemen in the north have reached the stage where they can be thankful for even small mercies. The one thing that may put the brake on the present activity is the weakness that has just developed in the oversea markets. Up to a couple of weeks back forward sales of beef were fairly easy to negotiate, but recently it has been almost impossible to do business. The weakness can probably be attributed to the huge shipments that are going forward from South America. In May alone Argentina and Uruguay exported 816,000 quarters of frozen and chilled beef to Great Britain, and 598,000 quarters to various continental ports. Such quantities as these are certainly enough to depress any market, especially as nearly 600,000 quarters of the consignments to the United Kingdom were chilled, and would therefore have to go into consumption quickly. Further, I hear that some of the shipments to Germany have had to be diverted to England, owing to importers being unable to finance their orders.

Apparently the trade with southern Europe is more stable. Australian packers have lately been able to fix up contracts for the supply of close on 9,000 tons of beef—say, 125,000 quarters—to Italy. The price is said to be 7½ to 8 cents per pound, c. i. f.

Packers operating in the south and central divisions of Queensland are maintaining the buying rate, dressed weight delivered, at \$5 to \$5.30 per 100 pounds for first quality and \$4.50 to \$4.80 for second grade. The northern companies, on the other hand, have found it necessary to advance their offers from a maximum of \$4.10 to \$4.50 for firsts and from \$3.35 to \$3.60 for seconds. I am inclined to think the competition of southern works is responsible for this. As mentioned in my last letter, the completion of the east-coast railway to Townsville enabled a southern operator to enter into arrangements for the delivery of a mob of northern-bred cattle at his works near Brisbane, at an apparently better price than was being offered in the north. The actual delivery of these cattle does not begin until next week, but in the meantime one enterprising breeder in the northwest of the state has had the pluck to try the experiment of railfencing a small mob past the very doors

of the northern factories to Brisbane, for sale by auction in the yards. There were about 300 head, the bullocks averaging \$46 and the cows \$35.75 each. The rail journey of 1,400 miles, including time in two resting-paddocks, occupied nearly a week, while the freight and other charges amounted to \$8 a head. I may add that the cattle must have been of exceptional quality to realize the foregoing price. As a matter of fact, some of the bullocks that were slaughtered at one of the export works averaged, dressed, 800 pounds, and the cows 700 pounds. The amount of damage due to bruising was less than in the case of mobs that had traveled only 200 miles.

The federal government has not yet given a definite reply regarding the beef-export bonus of one-half cent per pound. The Australian Meat Council and various producers' associations are doing their utmost to get it continued; but, in view of present prices, it is difficult to see how the government can find justification for the payment generally. There may be some justification, as far as a government is ever justified in taxing one section of the community for the benefit of another, in granting assistance to cattle-growers in the Northern Territory and in the northern part of Western Australia. They are getting only \$2.90 per 100 pounds for their beasts at the Wyndham works, whereas Queenslanders are receiving the comparatively princely sum of up to \$4.50.

Regarding the Northern Territory, Vestey Brothers announce that, subject to the federal government carrying out certain port improvements, they intend to open their Darwin works for boiling down only during the winter of 1925. Their object is to treat a proportion of the cattle in the country that are past the breeding and fattening age, so as to leave room for younger stock. Failing boiling down, the bulk will probably be shot on the runs, with the resultant loss of the hides, tallow, etc. Given this clearance and improved loading facilities, it is possible that the Darwin works may be used for freezing in 1926. They have been closed since 1919.

Seasonal conditions in the south—in fact, throughout the whole Commonwealth except the far northwest, parts of the Northern Territory, and central Australia—are favorable. Natural feed is plentiful for the time of the year, and stock is keeping in good order. Values for fats in the public sale-yards remain firm. Unequal supplies have caused fluctuations at times, but, taking the southern markets by and large, there is not much to complain about.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS IN THE ARGENTINE

EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO Leon M. Estabrook, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at Washington, was "lent" to the Department of Agriculture of the Argentine Republic for the purpose of organizing a system of agricultural statistics and crop forecasts similar to that in effect in the United States. During his stay in Buenos Aires, Mr. Estabrook has built up a bureau that is already working smoothly and efficiently, and which, when fully completed, will rank as one of the best in the world, we are told in a pamphlet, "Shaping the Destiny of the Argentine Farmer," published by the Pan-American Union.

The plan contemplates a corps of 80,000 volunteers in all parts of the country who will co-operate in keeping the Ministry of Agriculture, and through it the public, informed as to crop and live-stock conditions, present and prospective, through regular reports—each township to have its own group of correspondents, who are to be practical growers of the crops on which they report. These reports will thereupon be tabulated by counties, then by provinces, and eventually compiled at, and disseminated from, the national capital.

ROUND THE RANGE

CONDITION OF RANGE AND STOCK IN JULY

Lack of moisture has caused considerable deterioration in the ranges of most of the western states, especially west of the Rocky Mountains. The drought is keenly felt in California, Nevada, the southern third of Utah, and parts of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. On the other hand, recent rains have caused a marked improvement in the pastures and ranges of Montana east of the mountains, North Dakota, South Dakota, and parts of Nebraska. Average condition of all ranges in the western states at the inception of July was 81 per cent of normal, compared with 84 for June and 94 for July, 1923. For cattle the average was 90 per cent, as against 90 in June and 94 in July, 1923; and for sheep, 92, 95, and 97 per cent, respectively.

By states, condition, as expressed by figures denoting percentages of normal, was as follows, according to the Division of Crop and Live-Stock Estimates—the first number representing range on July 1, the second cattle, and the third sheep: Arizona, 92, 94, 95; California, 52, 86, 85; Colorado, 93, 92, 95; Idaho, 62, 75, 78; Kansas (western), 84, 90, —; Montana, 97, 105, 106; Nebraska, 85, 88, —; Nevada, 64, 79, 83; New Mexico, 82, 87, 91; North Dakota, 90, 91, 93; Oklahoma, 83, 90, —; Oregon, not given; South Dakota, 90, 92, 94; Texas, 87, 90, 92; Utah, 72, 78, 86; Washington, 74, 82, 92; Wyoming, 96, 98, 105.

FALL MARKETING OF RANGE CATTLE

Reports to the Division of Crop and Live-Stock Estimates indicate that cattlemen in Texas expect to market about 298,000 head during the latter half of 1924. This compares with 335,000 head shipped during the corresponding period in 1923. Shipments out of New Mexico are expected to be approximately 230,000 head, compared with 263,000 last year; while the number available for sale in Arizona is given as 141,000, as against 126,000 in 1923. Actual numbers marketed, we are told, will depend upon prices, the corn crop in the North, disposition of the banks in the matter of liquidation, and other conditions arising during the next few months.

About 1,000,000 cattle are expected to be marketed from Kansas during the latter half of the year, compared with 1,114,000 for the same period of 1923. Of these, western Kansas may ship 248,000, compared with 286,000 last year, while the Flint Hills are estimated to have a marketing surplus of 372,000, as against 428,000. Western Nebraska and North Dakota are expected to have about the same number of cattle for shipment as during 1923. The spring movement into Nebraska pastures was about 32 per cent below that of last year, but, on the other hand, the calf crop has shown a steady increase.

CALF AND LAMB CROPS IN WEST

Increases in the calf crop during the first half of 1924, compared with the corresponding period in 1923, occurred in Kansas, Texas, Wyoming, Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon; while decreases took place in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and Washington, and practically no change was reported for Montana, New Mexico, and California, according to calculations by the Division of Crop and Live-Stock Estimates.

For the lamb crop, percentages increased in Texas, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, decreased in California, and showed no

change in Colorado. The small increase of 3 per cent in sheep in the West on January 1, compared with a year ago, moderate losses to date, and figures showing a generally better lamb crop this season than last, in the opinion of the government statisticians, justify the general conclusion that there are a few more lambs in the West than last year.

Losses of cattle and sheep, excluding this year's calves and lambs, were generally low compared with other years, except in California where about as many cattle and one-third as many sheep were slaughtered in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease as were lost from all other causes during the six months covered by this report.

COST OF MAINTAINING CATTLE ON FOREST LAND

It cost ranchmen, on the average, 66 cents a head per month, or \$3.62 for the season, to run cattle on forest ranges in the western states in 1923, says a statement issued by the Department of Agriculture. This compares with \$2.04 per head for cattle run upon the Colorado national-forest ranges in the year 1922.

The 1923 figures are based on a study of costs on 1,193 ranches on fifteen national-forest ranges in Colorado, eight in Utah, four in Wyoming, four in Idaho, and one in Montana. The Colorado cost figures for 1922 cover 454 ranches. The 1923 figures cover 138 ranches running 34,265 head of cattle under an individual system whereby each owner does his own riding, and twenty-four cattle pools made up of 1,148 members running 39,072 head. Cost per head under the individual method in 1922 was \$2.26 for the season, while cattle that were handled under the pool system had a season charge of \$1.87 per head.

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THE INTER-MOUNTAIN LIVE-STOCK MARKET

On cattle run under the pool system in 1923 the grazing fee was 9 cents higher per head than on cattle run under the individual system, because pool cattle ran on the range 145 days, whereas the individual cattle were on the range only 136 days. On the other hand, horse expense was only 5 cents per head on pool cattle, while it amounted to 10.5 cents a head on cattle run by the individual method. This spread was due to the fact that it required twice as much riding to handle cattle under the individual system.

Analysis of different items entering into the cost of carrying cattle on the forest ranges shows why the pool method is cheaper. While cattle in the pools had to pay a somewhat higher grazing fee, the cost of maintaining camps and feeding saddle-horses was much higher for the individual droves than for the pool cattle. It also cost the independent operators more to move their animals to the ranges, to salt their cattle, to maintain drift-fences, and to repair and re-

new equipment per unit of live stock under control.

From the standpoint of labor-saving, the cattle pools in this study were twice as efficient as the individual ranches. Cattle run under the pool system required only 25 days of riding for each 100 head, while cattle run under the individual system required 52.5 days. Labor cost under the individual method was 19 cents a head higher than under the pool system.

VISITORS' DAYS AT GREAT BASIN

Visitors' Days will be held at the Great Basin Experiment Station, on the Manti National Forest, near Ephraim, Utah, on August 29 and 30. Stockmen and others interested in the experiments which the Forest Service has been carrying on at this station for the past twelve years in improvement of the range, and other problems relating to grazing, are invited to attend.

The station is located eleven miles east of Ephraim, and may be reached by auto via Ephraim or Orangeville, or by way of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad to Ephraim.

GAME ANIMALS ON NATIONAL FORESTS

Increases, mostly due to closer estimates, are shown in practically all big game animals on national forests for the year 1923, the figures for which have just been compiled. In deer, California still stands first, with 187,000 head; Oregon coming next, with 52,000. Wyoming, as heretofore, has the largest number of elk, 15,000; Washington being second, with 8,400. Idaho has 3,400 mountain goats, and Colorado 5,600 mountain sheep. Following is the complete list, with comparisons for 1922:

	1923	1922
Antelopes	4,647	3,032
Buffaloes	157	149
Caribou	47	67
Deer	511,238	440,614
Elks	49,540	48,500
Moose	7,961	4,364
Mountain goats.....	18,105	8,364
Mountain sheep.....	12,933	12,317

INCREASE IN DAIRY COWS

An increase of 6 per cent in the number of milk cows, two years old and over, on farms in the United States for the year ended June 1, 1924, is indicated by a survey of the Department of Agriculture recently undertaken by rural mail-carriers and covering 121,000 farms. The Bureau of the Census in 1920 enumerated 23,724,148 dairy cows and heifers over one year of age.

This is the first survey relating to milk cows which has been made by rural car-

riers, so that comparisons with previous years are not available. The survey also indicated that there were 24.6 per cent as many heifers between one and two years of age as there were dairy cows, and 21.8 per cent as many heifer calves. The census of 1920 showed 20.6 per cent as many dairy heifers one to two years of age as dairy cows.

RANCH RHYMES

"Rhymes of a Rancher," by E. A. L. Griffin, of Hot Springs, South Dakota, of which we made mention in THE PRODUCER a few months back, reaches us in a new edition. Some of the poems have been revised, a few new ones have been added, and the whole has been illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings from the author's own workshop. Altogether a very attractive little volume is the result. To those who like to read about the different phases of life on the ranch, adventures of the open spaces, and reflections on picturesque personalities and events that have come within the writer's purview, all portrayed in vivid, smooth-flowing rhymes by one who knows these things inside out, we recommend this collection of witty verses.

Here is another sample from Mr. Griffin's Muse:

GASTRONOMIC MEMORIES

I've dined in first-class restaurants, I've lunched in swell cafes,
And eaten fancy dishes that were served in fancy ways:
But, oh, the pines and the frosty air, the smell of venison fried,
A fire bright, and a star-lit night, and a tent to crawl inside!

I've sat in polished dining-cars, where meals are served in style,
While dusky-skinned attendants bustle up and down the aisle:
But, oh, the shade by the river bank, the taste of fresh-baked trout,
And the berries ripe, and my jimmie-pipe, in the days of camping out!

At banquets more than once I've sat throughout a ten-course meal,
And heard the witty speakers make their after-dinner spiel:
But, oh, the smoke of the round-up camp, the cuts off the good pot-roast,
With the boys sitting round on the grassy ground, and the mess cook acting host!

MILKING SHORTHORN YEARBOOK READY

Volume IX of the "Milking Shorthorn Yearbook" is off the press and may be obtained, free, from the office of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, 13 Dexter Park Avenue, Chicago. The primary function of the "Yearbook" is to record the production of milk and butter-fat of Shorthorn cows that have met the requirements of the Record of

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Merit. Besides this, the volume contains much other interesting information about Milking Shorthorns—which are not a distinct breed, but are recorded in the "American Shorthorn Herd-Book" along with Shorthorns and Polled Shorthorns.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE GERM DISCOVERED

Isolation of the germ of foot-and-mouth disease, which has baffled scientists for many years, has at last been accomplished, if we may believe an account in Science Service's *Daily Science News Bulletin*, as quoted in the *Literary Digest*. The discoverers are Dr. Heinrich Frosch and Professor Robert Dahmen, of the Berlin Veterinary Research Institute. It is hoped that this may lead to the elaboration of a preventive serum. We read:

"The bacilli are too small to be seen with the highest-power microscope, but by photography with light waves of short wave-length they are revealed as rods about one ten-thousandth of a millimeter in length—a millimeter being approximately one twenty-fifth of an inch. These tiny bacilli clot together to form globules about the size of the red corpuscles of the blood and which can easily be seen with the microscope. The State Hygienic Institute and the Robert Koch Institute are now endeavoring to duplicate these results. If they are confirmed, an effort will be made to find a protective serum against this disease, which in the past few months has caused millions of dollars' loss to farmers, dairymen, and stock-raisers in California and in England."

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE WIDESPREAD

Of the fearful prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease, the following utterance by the British minister of agriculture, as quoted in the *London Meat Trades' Journal*, gives a vivid picture:

"With the exception of Norway and the states of Esthonia and Latvia, foot-and-mouth disease has existed since January 1 last, and still exists generally, throughout European countries. It exists also in Algeria, but South Africa is free. The extent of the disease in Asia is not accurately known, but outbreaks certainly have occurred in Turkey. In North America, California is affected, and it would probably be safe to say that the disease is prevalent through the South American continent."

FEEDING SCREENINGS TO LIVE STOCK

Wheat screenings wasted in the spring-wheat states last year could have been fed to more than 3,500,000 lambs and returned to the farmers, by way of increased weight of the lambs, more than \$8,500,000, declares the Department of Agriculture in urging farmers to separate screenings from the wheat and to

feed it to live stock. Screenings are an undesirable product, consisting principally of weed seeds, shrunken kernels of grain, broken stems, dirt, and other foreign material. Often they constitute from 10 to 20 per cent of the grain as it comes from the thresher.

Nearly 12,000,000 bushels of screenings were produced last year by spring-wheat growers in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana. The cost of threshing this "dockage," as screenings are called when sold with the grain, was over \$675,000, and the freight cost of hauling it to market was more than \$800,000. The growers received nothing for the dockage; in fact, its presence in the wheat often meant lower grain prices.

Screenings can be cleaned out of wheat and rye at the time of threshing or at the farm granaries, at a cost of two or three cents a bushel. Cleaning will often raise the grain one or more grades, and cleaner seed wheat will result in higher yields per acre.

The following general points in feeding screenings are emphasized by the department: Always grind screenings before feeding, to prevent spread of weed seeds. For sheep, feed good wheat screenings with clover or alfalfa hay. For hogs, two parts of heavy screenings, ground and mixed with one part of corn, is an excellent feed. The palatability is increased by cooking, which makes grinding unnecessary. For cattle, feed a good grade of recleaned screenings with a good quality of legume hay, or with silage and some protein meal. For poultry, screenings may be fed in the scratch mixture or with the mash.

Dockage and grain-cleaning methods, together with practices recommended in feeding screenings to live stock, have been published in a mimeograph pamphlet entitled "Screenings as Feed for Live Stock," copies of which may be obtained upon request to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

A Flying Start.—"Sergeant," said the artillery recruit, "please pick out a nice gentle horse for me, won't you?"

"Have you ever ridden before?"

"No."

"Ah!" said the sergeant. "Then here's just the animal for you. He's never been ridden before. You can start together."

—*Boston Transcript*.

Superiority.—Booth Tarkington tells of an old colored man who appeared as a witness before one of our committees. In the course of his examination these questions were put to the man:

"What is your name?"

"Calhoun Clay, sah."

"Can you sign your name?"

"Sah?"

"I ask you if you can write your name?"

"Well, no, sah. Ah nebber writes ma name. Ah dictates it, sah."—*Atlanta Constitution*.

Of Two Evils.—Fond Parent—"Now, Doris, if you won't kiss your uncle, I shall have to send you to bed."

Doris (after a few moments' silence) —"Very well—good night, mamma!"—*Humorist* (London).

L. C. Hayzlett

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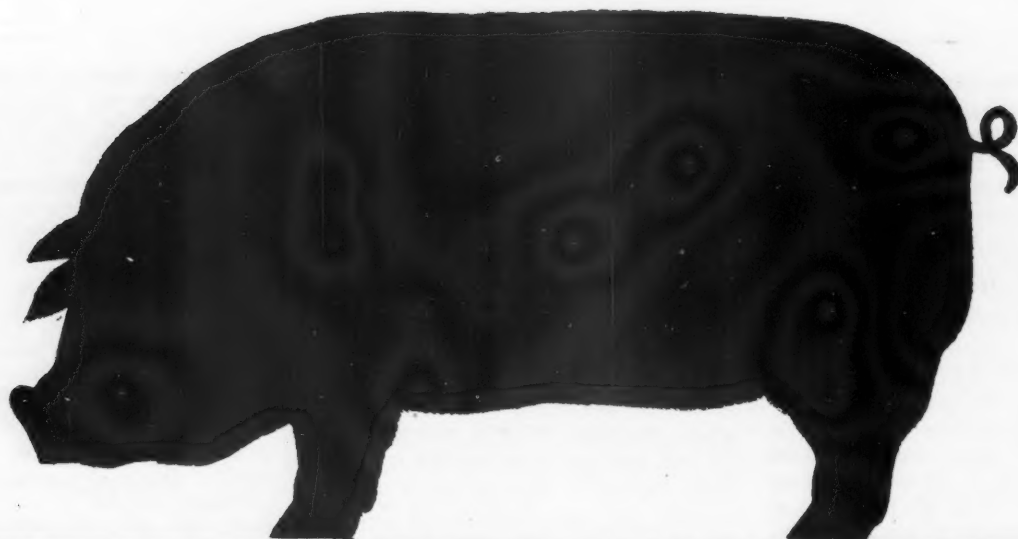
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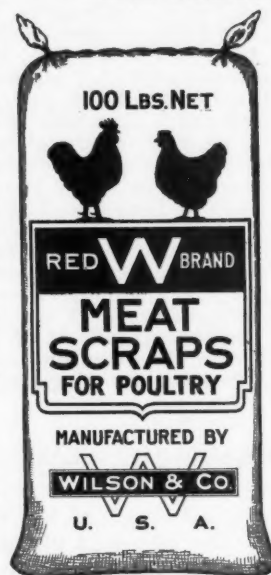
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¶Weanling pigs need tankage for greater strength and vigor.

¶Hogs for marketing need tankage for strength of bone and muscle and quicker finish.

¶These are facts that make tankage essential at all times, and especially during the summer. If your supply is low, order Red "W." There is none better. Don't be without it.



SUGGESTION: RED "W" Meat Scraps is a popular seller. It increases egg production. It will pay you to order at least one ton in your next car with tankage. Write us for combination proposition.



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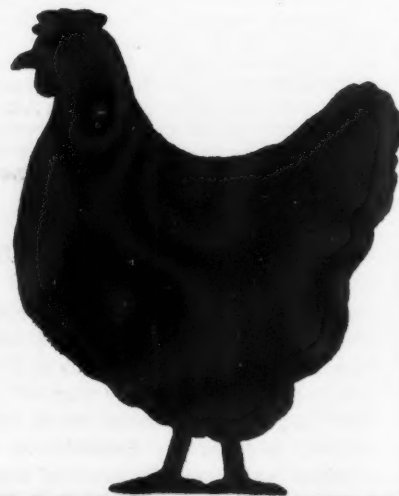


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How The Santa Fe dollar was spent in 1923

Taxes more than dividends. Rate reductions more than taxes —

The measure of success in railroad business is the relation of costs to returns. If the dollar earned does not cover the cost of earning it, the business fails. If it covers the cost with a margin over, the business succeeds.

THE SANTA FE DOLLAR IN 1923 WENT AS FOLLOWS:

Maintenance of track, buildings, e'c.	13.37 cents
Maintenance of locomotives, freight and passenger cars	19.36 "
Train, station and switching, and other transportation	19.68 "
Traffic agencies	1.69 "
Fuel	8.49 "
Salaries and expenses of clerks and other general office employees	.96 "
Legal, valuation, general officers, pensions and death benefits and miscellaneous	1.06 "
Depreciation and retirements, equipment and ice plants	3.69 "
Loss, damage and casualties	1.07 "
Rent of equipment, joint facilities, etc.	1.04 "
Interest on bonds and other interest charges	4.60 "
Dividends on capital stock	8.06 "
Taxes	8.14 "
Balance available for expanding facilities	8.79 "

100.00 cents

Of the last item 3.02 cents came from sources other than rates so that a reduction of less than 6% in rates would have wiped out the entire margin of safety from earnings through rates.

Even a decline in gross business such as has occurred this year inevitably reduces this balance of 8.79 cents, because not many of the cost items can be cut down in proportion.

The adjustment between success and failure is a delicate one in the transportation industry. For the welfare of the country, it should not be lightly tampered with, either by laws or by the various commissions that control the main elements of railroad earnings and costs.

It is particularly notable in the above statement that taxes were more than dividends and only a little less

than all the fuel used for the System. Taxes were \$20,316,491.

Good service requires ample money for operation and maintenance. Even a rather substantial reduction in rates would benefit individuals so slightly as hardly to be known, while it might readily (because of poor service) cause them tremendous loss which would be quickly and keenly felt.

A railroad gets money from its rates and has no other large source of supply, even though attempts seem to be made to have the public believe otherwise. Since 1921 freight rates have been almost continuously in process of reduction. Santa Fe freight earnings were decreased \$14,500,000 in 1922 and \$23,945,000 in 1923 from what they would have been with 1921 rates.

The Santa Fe already has reduced freight rates many millions. But adequate service is vital for shippers. It can be furnished only when fair rates provide the money needed.

W. B. STOREY, President
The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway System



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Live Stock and the Northland

BY JAMES E. POOLE

MYSTERY has its favorite habitat in the Northland. One of these mysteries has been an area styled "Cloverland," hidden away in the upper latitudes of Wisconsin and Michigan. It may be there, but as a grazing region it is not visible to the naked eye. There are countless leagues of swamps, sandy hills, and rocky upland areas. Here and there, where the original forest was hardwood, miniature patches of clover freight the atmosphere with fragrance; but the fire-scarred landscape may be surveyed for hundreds of square miles without revealing anything pastoral even approaching the photographic efforts of its advertisers. "Cloverland," in the sense in which it has been boosted, is a myth.

"Cloverland" a Misnomer

What is known as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan—a long promontory separating Lakes Michigan and Superior—is the reputed heart of that elusive region, "Cloverland." Originally it was covered by a dense pine forest, interspersed with patches of hardwood. Where pine grew, clover does not flourish—nor, for that matter, does anything else having a cash value. The limited hardwood areas were reclaimed long since, have been farmed these many years, and suggest that the cognomen "Cloverland" might have been appropriate had these areas been more extensive. So far as agriculture, pastoral or otherwise, is concerned, nature has placed its seal of disapproval on the whole region.

There is a popular impression that this peninsula, and the hinterland to the west as far as the forest area continues, are a region susceptible of stumping, drainage, and reclamation by the plow. Illustrated literature, vying with the most pretentious efforts of California real-estate exploiters, has been industri-

ously disseminated these many years past to create that impression. The effort may have been effective in selling land by the map; certainly not in attracting bona-fide settlement or encouraging development. The whole region is in the hands of lumber concerns or speculators anxious to unload—especially now that taxation is approaching confiscation. Eventually the State of Michigan may find itself in possession of much of this region through delinquency in tax payments, making economic disposition possible, as it could then be converted into a gigantic forest reserve or state park—an accessible playground for the nation.

Nature developed a magnificent crop of timber hereabout; the white man ravaged it. For fifty years he slashed, burned, and destroyed; now the shortsightedness of this policy is realized. Natural wealth of incalculable value was thus dissipated. In the wake of the lumberman came a handful of backwoods farmers, pitching their log-houses and stunted fields wherever nature made cropping possible. This meager development has exhausted the agricultural resources of the region, unless it may be possible for future generations to reclaim vast areas of swamps, now densely cropped with spruce, balsam, cedar, and tamarack. So far settlers have not attempted this effort, indicating that the swamps are not susceptible of reclamation, by reason of either drainage obstacles or stone. Even if reclaimable, Corn Belt land would need to be worth \$500 an acre, and the semi-arid West lack development possibilities, before settlers could even contemplate the labor involved.

Country Rough and Sandy

Conceive a vast, undulating, well-watered region of boasted fertility, convertible into a landscape dotted

with pyramidal haystacks, even as the portly silo bespeaks Corn Belt fatness, and you have an idea of the preconception of this misnamed "Cloverland," created by its voluminous and highly ornate literature. At the eastern gateway, St. Ignace, the landscape is pleasing;



A TYPICAL SCENE IN THE NORTHLAND

farther north, within a radius of fifty miles of the "Soo," a superb, level greensward greets the eye. Here is a miniature "Cloverland;" but the speeding motor car soon leaves it behind. A few miles southwest of Sault Ste. Marie the tourist encounters the outskirts of the sandy, stony waste that stretches westward. Here and there some settler, having hewn a home in the wilderness, sticks to his possessions, eking out a living by working in the woods, or on the highways which Michigan is now constructing with automobile fees all through the country; but he cannot be designated a farmer. The live-stock population of this great region consists of a few milk cows, a handful of sheep, and an odd pig. Through the woods run countless deer—taboo to the stranger, but meat for the habitant, as, even at the eating-places along the route, the steaks served warrant suspicion of venison.



"CLOVERLAND" AS IT EXISTS IN LIMITED AREAS
Scene is in Bayfield County, Wisconsin

It is a hunter's and fisherman's paradise; but any impression that it can be converted into a grazing region is erroneous, regardless of what the advertising copy-writers may indite.

Escanaba is the southwestern gateway to this section of the Northland. It saw better days, in a com-

mercial sense, when the original crop of lumber was in the process of being garnered. Its background is an extensive tract of swamp, filled with the deciduous tree growth peculiar to the north country, and level as a barn floor. Asked why it had not been reclaimed and "cloverized," for demonstration purposes if nothing else, the Escanabites asserted that it was impracticable. This seemed plausible, as the country is in possession of excellent rail and water facilities, freights are relatively, if not actually, low, and at Chicago, Buffalo, Cleveland, and Detroit good hay markets exist. "Cloverland" boosters should have been developing instead of boosting.

Fit Only for a Forest Reserve

All consideration of converting this country into a cattle- and sheep-raising section may be dismissed. Nature did not construct it that way; otherwise it would have been as well settled as fertile central Wisconsin, immediately after the Civil War. Its apparent destiny is a forest reserve or state park. Already Michigan has adopted that policy, and, as an essential preliminary, has established an effective system of fire protection; for fire is a constant menace both to



A HOMESTEAD SHACK

life and to property. Evidences of devastation are on every hand.

Any mystery surrounding the Lake Superior-Lake Michigan region will soon be dispelled, as the Roosevelt Highway is under construction, extending from the "Soo" to Duluth and St. Paul, and making, in connection with the King's Highway across Ontario from the "Soo" to Toronto and Montreal, a northern international highway. At present the trip is handicapped by long stretches of sand that are uncomfortable, although not impassable.

Well-Watered but Sterile Region

Lavish in some respects, nature has been niggardly hereabout in others. Water everywhere, serving no useful purpose, might have fructified the semi-arid West with a soil capable of producing nutritious grasses in abundance. Nor is this combination of sterility and humidity peculiar to the Lake Superior

region, extending, as it does, to much of the northern half of Michigan's southern peninsula, where a desolate panorama of abandoned farms and orchards, deserted schoolhouses and churches, railroads that have fallen into disuse, and decadent towns, once prosperous under the stimulating influence of lumbering operations, greets the traveler. Such abandonment, especially in the case of farms, records tragedy—the failure of strenuous effort to establish homes.

Some day perhaps, when the food requirements of the nation overtax the producing capacity of lands now susceptible of profitable cultivation, this region will be reclaimed; but as a beef- and mutton-producer, under existing conditions, it is useless. Labor is too well and too remuneratively employed to make reclamation or fertilization possible. It may have a future as an orchard region eventually, but not immediately. In spots dairying may be carried on; but the winters are long, necessitating housing everything circulating blood, and no possibility of feed abundance can be detected. With its fifty years or more of settlement, it is a region where domestic animals are few, despite proximity of good markets. Even the ubiquitous black-and-white cow of prosperous central Wisconsin and southern Michigan almost disappears. There are spots where agriculture has made headway, notably in the northern section of Ashland and Bayfield Counties in Wisconsin; but these are exceptions.

Trackless Wilds of Northern Canada

Crossing the St. Mary's River at the "Soo," the traveler dives into the trackless forests of northern Canada, stretching to the Arctic Circle in an interminable succession of hills, swamps, lakes, and streams, where human life will always be scarce, remote as it is from the populous sections of Ontario and the prairie regions of Manitoba. With a less rigorous climate, it might develop a sheep industry; cattle, even from a dairy standpoint, are impossible.

It may as well be understood now as at any time that the grazing resources of this North American continent are definitely known; that no pastoral *terra incognita* exists anywhere on the map; and that east of the Missouri the production of commercial beef cattle, except in small bunches, is impossible. The Southeast doubtless has potential grazing possibilities, but they will not be developed for many years to come, if ever. If the teeming population of the eastern half of the United States is to consume any considerable quantity of beef in the future, the necessary cattle must originate in the trans-Missouri region. There is no "cow country," in the accepted sense of the term, elsewhere. We have yet to realize the value of our western grazing area, or conceive the possibilities of conservation and rehabilitation. There is no grass like it anywhere else.

ONE WAY TO BEAT THE FREIGHT RATE

BY ERNEST CORDEAL

McCook, Nebraska

FREIGHT RATES ARE HIGH—not even the railroad men deny that; but whether they can be immediately lowered, with full justice to the carriers, is a question upon which it is not so easy to get concurrent opinion. There is, however, a perfectly feasible and logical method by which the farmer can beat the freight rate, without asking the railroads to make a reduction. It is a method which should be employed regardless of transportation considerations, in the interest of industrial efficiency. It is nothing more nor less than the elimination of unnecessary shipping of cattle and grain to and from the central market. The result may be accomplished by means of improved local co-operation.

It is safe to say that there is hardly an important town in the grain belt which does not ship feeder cattle and corn to distant markets, and in the same season buy cattle and corn on the same market to be shipped back. One farmer with a herd of cattle decides to sell his steers off the grass, and either disposes of them to a local dealer or gets a car and ships them to market. At the same moment another farmer, a few miles distant, decides to buy cattle and feed his corn, instead of selling it direct, and goes to the central market to get steers. It is even possible that the same steers shipped in by farmer No. 1 are bought and shipped out again by farmer No. 2 within a day or so, and to the very district in which they were raised. The railroad collects freight both ways, and dealers and commission men take a cut on both the sale and the purchase.

Now, if farmer No. 1 had sold his cattle direct to farmer No. 2, the railroad would have collected no freight, the middlemen would have taken no commission, and the sum so saved could have been divided between the breeder and the feeder. To carry the case a little farther: The farmer who sold his steers off the grass had no use for his corn, or for the surplus corn of his neighbors; so it was hauled to town, sold to the local elevator, and shipped to market. A little later the man who is feeding cattle finds that he must have more grain, and goes to the dealer, who ships him in a carload, on which he must pay freight and handling charges.

The man who has no intention of buying a piano would have little occasion to worry because the price of such instruments was high, and the farmer who sold his steers and his corn locally would not be bothered by the freight rate. Even the general effect which the transportation rate may have on the market price of live stock and grain would be materially lessened by the elimination of unnecessary shipping.

In order to arrive at some idea as to the amount of loss which the farmers in a certain district may sustain through unnecessary shipping of cattle and grain, the actual figures for one town may be taken. From this one town, in a single season, thirty-two carloads of thin cattle were shipped out, and forty-eight carloads of feeders were shipped in. Evidently there was a demand for more cattle to feed than were raised in the district, and no good reason appears why the thirty-two cars of thin cattle should have moved out. If they had not gone, it would have been unnecessary to ship in a like number of cars of feeders. The freight charge on a carload of cattle from this point to the nearest important market is, roughly, \$50; so that the unnecessary movement of thirty-two cars out, and a like number in, would represent the sum of \$3,200, paid to the railroad companies, which might have been divided between the breeder and the feeder if they could have come together in the matters of price and time of delivery.

During this same season, 182 cars of corn were shipped out of the station under consideration, and sixty-two cars were shipped in. Every car of corn carries a freight charge of

something over \$100; so that, if the duplication of in and out movement could have been eliminated, the farmers and the feeders would have been saved something over \$12,000, in addition to handling and commission charges.

This town is only one of five important farming centers in the county, and if the same thing has been taking place at the other four towns, as it no doubt has, the farmers and the stockmen of this single county have been paying no less than \$76,000 a year in freight charges to the railroads, which might have been saved to them by more perfect co-operation.

It would seem easily possible—perhaps it has been done in some places—to establish a clearing-house in each county or group of counties through which the purchase and sale of cattle and hogs for feeding, and the feed grains, could be handled, so that only the surplus of each class would be shipped out, and so that practically all duplicate movements would be eliminated. The office of the extension agent might well be able to handle such business, with little or no added expense—provided, of course, that all farmers and stockmen in the district were willing to co-operate. Or any of the farmers' organizations with a large local membership could undertake the office of bringing the breeder, the feeder, and the grain-farmer together, so as to save for them the heavy tax at present taken by the middlemen and the transportation companies.

WESTERN WOOL RATES REDUCED

SAVINGS TO WOOL-GROWERS of range states estimated at \$300,000 a year will result from a decision recently rendered by the Interstate Commerce Commission, reducing freight rates on wools shipped eastward, as well as on westbound shipments to be transferred to boats at Pacific coast points for transportation to eastern markets through the Panama Canal. The new rates are to be put into effect not later than October 23, 1924. This marks the successful termination of a case (Docket No. 14787) which has extended over considerably more than a year, and has been prosecuted for the wool-growers by the National Wool Growers' Association through its secretary, F. R. Marshall, and H. W. Prickett, special counsel.

Carriers, arguing that their financial status would be seriously impaired unless they were relieved of the competition of steamship lines and enabled to secure the wool tonnage going to eastern markets by the canal route, in 1921, under section 4 of the Transportation Act, requested permission to lower their rates from Pacific coast terminals while maintaining them from inland points. This request, which was strongly opposed by representatives from inland states, has now been denied by the commission—possibly influenced by the Gooding bill, passed by the Senate at the last session, which instructed the commission to abandon its policy of authorizing lower rates for longer hauls.

In 1922, lines hauling the bulk of western wool published a blanket rate to the East of \$2.70 per 100 pounds from points on the Pacific coast and a strip of territory extending to Soda Springs, Idaho, and stations north and south thereof. Points located a short distance from the coast had previously enjoyed rates direct to Boston equivalent to their local rates to the Pacific coast plus the water freight from the coast to Boston. The result of the \$2.70 rate was to raise the rates at such points. Complaints were made to the commission, which issued an order suspending the rates and calling for a general investigation of the whole wool-freight structure. Hence this case.

The refusal of authority to charge lower rates from coast points than from inland points will result in an increase in rail rates from the coast and from a few points close to the coast. Growers, however, are benefited by the reduction on rail shipments to the coast where connection is made with steamer routes.

The new maximum rates as established by the commission for wool and mohair in the grease, in sacks in carload lots, moving all-rail to Boston or other North Atlantic ports, are as follows:

Distance to Boston	Rate
1,500 miles and under.....	\$1.40
1,550 miles and over 1,500.....	1.45
1,600 miles and over 1,550.....	1.50
1,650 miles and over 1,600.....	1.55
1,700 miles and over 1,650.....	1.60
1,750 miles and over 1,700.....	1.65
1,800 miles and over 1,750.....	1.70
1,850 miles and over 1,800.....	1.75
1,900 miles and over 1,850.....	1.80
1,950 miles and over 1,900.....	1.85
2,000 miles and over 1,950.....	1.90
2,050 miles and over 2,000.....	1.94
2,100 miles and over 2,050.....	1.98
2,150 miles and over 2,100.....	2.02
2,200 miles and over 2,150.....	2.06
2,250 miles and over 2,200.....	2.10
2,300 miles and over 2,250.....	2.14
2,350 miles and over 2,300.....	2.18
2,400 miles and over 2,350.....	2.22
2,450 miles and over 2,400.....	2.26
2,500 miles and over 2,450.....	2.30
2,550 miles and over 2,500.....	2.34
2,600 miles and over 2,550.....	2.38
2,650 miles and over 2,600.....	2.42
2,700 miles and over 2,650.....	2.46
2,800 miles and over 2,700.....	2.52
2,900 miles and over 2,800.....	2.58
3,000 miles and over 2,900.....	2.64
Over 3,000 miles.....	2.70

The application of these rates is also authorized to points to which the distances are less than to Boston.

All-rail rates on wool in sacks from Pacific coast ports to Boston under this decision will thus be not more than \$2.70 per 100 pounds. Rates on baled wool of a density of nineteen pounds or more per cubic foot will be 85 per cent of the rates on sacked wool. A reduction has been ordered in westbound rates to Pacific coast terminals to a basis of 65 per cent of the first-class rates. The minimum loading weight will continue to be 24,000 pounds for a 36-foot car. On the average, the saving to wool-growers by this decision is estimated to represent a little more than 2 cents a fleece, or about 30 cents per 100 pounds.

A SHORTER MARKET WEEK

A BEGINNING toward what, it is hoped, will evolve into a system of more orderly marketing of live stock during the big annual fall movement from the range was made at Kansas City last month. On August 4 representatives of all the interests concerned met in conference there to consider ways of bringing about a more equal distribution of shipments to the three markets of Kansas City, St. Joseph, and Wichita. The plan, as proposed, provides for the establishment of a five-day week for fat cattle and a six-day week for hogs. At present, it was shown, 75 per cent of the weekly receipts at Kansas City arrive on the first three days of the week. On account of holding and feeding facilities adjacent to the yards, the distribution of sheep largely takes care of itself.

As an initial step, a committee, with J. H. Mercer, secretary of the Kansas Live Stock Association, as chairman and F. H. Olander, president of the Kansas City Live Stock Exchange, as secretary, was named to formulate a program for action. It was decided to launch a campaign of publicity through the local press, acquainting producers with the great advantages of such a method as suggested, which should result in a material saving to them.

Packers present gave definite pledges of support for the plan, and order buyers are to be urged to co-operate.

WESTERN CATTLE PROSPECTS

J. E. P.

WESTERN CATTLE TRADE opened inauspiciously and unpromisingly. Grassers had to compete with a glut of corn-fed cattle, many of them dislodged by the advance in corn; feeders were not in the bidding, and while beef consumption was maintained at large volume, thin, soft western product did not find a place in that trade. Much of the August run of grass cattle was picked prematurely and lodged on a market where it was not wanted, especially with feeder demand crippled.

A few choice westerns sold in Chicago at \$8 to \$8.25, feeders paying these prices for fleshy, qualified cattle; but a long string of \$6 to \$7.25 sales was made. The initial shipment of Matador cattle, averaging 1,182 pounds, realized \$7.40, a string of 996-pound heifers from the same concern making \$6.85. DeRicqles double-wintered Wyoming steers, dehorned and weighing 955 pounds, sold at \$6.40; the horned end of the shipment, averaging 1,025 pounds, making \$6.25. A shipment of 1,118-pound double-wintered, dehorned steers from the Reservation Pool, Lodgegrass, Montana, sold at \$6.75; another, averaging 1,092 pounds, at \$6.50; and a load of horned cattle, averaging 1,179 pounds, at \$7. Other representative sales, which furnish an idea of how the season started, were: 1,237 pounds, \$6.75; 1,150 pounds, \$8; 1,166 pounds, \$6.25; 1,208 pounds, \$6.25; 1,165 pounds, \$4.50. The first train of the Zimmerman cattle from South Dakota, averaging 1,123 pounds, sold at \$6.75.

Nobody pretends to know what is in store. Without an adequate feeder trade, western cattle cannot be sold to advantage. When responsibility for a clearance rests with packers, they will always buy the stuff down at rock bottom. So far as western cattlemen are concerned, the threat of a corn-crop failure was a disaster, as, with the Mississippi Valley full of green feed, thin western cattle would have been taken in large numbers to utilize it, had the corn prospect been even normal.

SEPTEMBER TO DECIDE FATE OF CORN CROP

J. E. P.

THE CORN SITUATION is somewhat enigmatic. Prices are on a famine basis, but there is no certainty of a famine. Parts of the belt are excessively dry; others, saturated. Nowhere is corn up to its schedule, but a frostless September is always possible. The real danger lies in the fact that the crop is late. The area is large, and, in any event, a lot of feed will be made.

Dollar corn is cashing half-fat cattle prematurely and restraining investment in stockers. This condition, if continued, will insure a short winter crop of beef. A year ago at this time the country was full of corn, and fleshy western steers were trooping to feed-lots in an interminable procession; under present conditions, a purchase of feeding cattle is news, and even light stockers are not in demand at what appear to be bargain prices. A frostless September will radically change the situation.

LIVE-STOCK DISEASE SITUATION

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

IT IS ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY that the foot-and-mouth situation in California is now practically cleared up. Of the sixteen counties originally involved, only one—Tuolumne—is still under suspicion. However, experience has taught that it is not safe to relax vigilance for a considerable period after the last reported occurrence, as the disease has a way of flar-

ing up in unexpected spots long after it apparently had been suppressed, and conditions are being watched closely by government and state officials.

Since the first outbreak, in January last, until the beginning of August, 102,000 animals were destroyed as infected with foot-and-mouth disease—55,000 cattle, 26,000 sheep, and 21,000 hogs. All these were paid for by the federal government and the State of California, half and half, on the basis of their market value. Restocking is now taking place on most of the farms and ranches.

Anthrax

Anthrax, from which a large number of communities in the South have been suffering, likewise appears to be subsiding. This disease is highly infectious, and usually fatal. It is characterized by ulcerations of the skin, enlargement of the spleen, and general collapse. Men contract it through handling affected parts of animals. The anthrax bacillus, however, has been isolated, and a serum has been developed which, while not curing, renders immune if used in time.

BEEF COWS A GOOD INVESTMENT

J. E. P.

BEEF COWS ARE DIRT-CHEAP; dairy stock is on a basis of seriously inflated values. Obviously this condition cannot continue. Good "whiteface" cows with calves can be bought at \$40 to \$50 per head, but demand is negligible. At weaning time the calves will be worth half that sum, and not a single calf of the 1923 crop, that was intelligently handled, has failed to show a profit. The cow could be fattened for the early spring market, when prices are always relatively good.

An Indiana man went to Kansas City late in August and, on the advice of his commission man, picked up 300 good Hereford and Shorthorn cows at \$4 per cwt. By the time they go into winter quarters this cost will have been grazed down substantially, enabling the operator to start the finishing operation on an advantageous basis.

A Chicago banker has been peddling a lot of light New Mexico cows, two to seven years old, at \$17.50; cows with calves, at \$25. This investment could not lose.

Cow beef rarely sells to advantage during the latter half of the year, when the West disgorges female stock; but, as the trade gets into the period of low temperatures, it is in request. If, instead of handling trashy steers, feeders acquired good "whiteface" and "red" cows, they would show sagacity. What the cow market needs is a feeder outlet, and what feeders need is good, weight-gaining cows. They are overlooking what the sporting gentlemen term "one best bet."

LARGE RAILROAD MERGER

THE CONSOLIDATION of five important railroads is expected to be announced within a short time. As projected, the Nickel Plate is to acquire control, through the exchange of stock and by lease, of the Chesapeake & Ohio, the Pere Marquette, the Erie, and the Hocking Valley Railroads, thereby consolidating over 10,000 miles of track under one system. Further, it is intimated that the Pittsburgh & West Virginia and the Wheeling & Lake Erie may later join the combine. The total capitalization of the new system is \$1,500,000,000.

The proposed combination is shortly to be submitted to the stockholders of the roads affected, when it is predicted that the project will be approved.

"I have read a few copies of THE PRODUCER and am sending \$2.75 for three years' subscription. You give more facts on the cattle industry than any other paper."—S. H. KNOWLES, Boulder, Mont.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

THE PLIGHT OF THE STOCKMAN

RAYMOND, IDAHO, August 22, 1924.

TO THE PRODUCER:

We had a very light snowfall last winter throughout southern Idaho, followed by cold, dry winds during April, May, and June, resulting in the driest season that we have had for a great many years. Our range is dried out. Cattle will be thin, and will have to be sent to market earlier than usual. Owing to heavy runs, the markets will no doubt be badly congested, resulting in low prices. The hay crop is light, and prices will be high, which will cause stockmen to liquidate more closely than usual.

We are fortunate in having sufficient water to irrigate our ranch, and have a splendid crop of hay and grain. As a consequence, we will finish our cattle as usual. We market finished steers during the months of January, February, and March. We feed alfalfa hay and twelve pounds of grain per head per day. We have enough hogs to follow which have been raised in alfalfa pastures, feed them one and one-half pounds of barley per day per head, and then run them in grain fields until they are put into feed-lots. After the steers are sold, we put the hogs on self-feeders, with ground wheat and barley, for thirty days, and top the market with our Durocs.

With this most economical method of producing, we cannot figure any money out of seven- and eight-cent hogs. We are very anxiously waiting for the ten- and twelve-cent market, so as to be able to continue producing hog products. We have played a losing game for the past four or five years, in both cattle and hogs. Since the unprecedented winter of 1918-19 we have simply hung on by the skin of our teeth. Nearly all the cattlemen have been compelled to get federal loans, thus mortgaging to Peter to pay Paul, and are still in the thick of the financial woods. The ever-increasing price of what we have to buy, and the decreasing price of what we sell, are getting us. For instance, note the following few items: mowing machine, \$100; horse rake, \$65; bull rake, \$87.50; work harness, from \$85 to \$100; barbed wire, \$5.50 for eighty pounds. My neighbor broke his hay-stacker the other day—a piece of timber three inches thick, five inches wide, and twenty feet long. A local implement house charged him \$12 to replace it. I sent seventeen steer hides to a reputable dealer in Ogden, Utah, recently, and, after deducting \$3.75 for freight, he sent me a balance of \$18.22. My wife went to town recently and bought the youngest daughter a pair of low-cut shoes, paying \$7. My boy got a pair, paying \$10. Everything else is selling at the same ratio.

I can think of only two ways of solving our problem. One is to quit producing, load the family into the jitney, move to the city, pawn our jitney for sufficient money with which to pay entrance into a labor union, demand from \$10 to \$12 a day, attend the movies, and be happy. The other method would be to subscribe for the *Congressional Record*, read the magnificent speeches made for the benefit of the farmer and stock-

man, remain on the job until the county tax collector takes over our ranches, and then go to the county poor farm.

Something must be done. Will La Follette and the Progressives do it?

GEORGE H. HALL.

NEW MEXICO IS DRY

SILVER CITY, N. M., August 17, 1924.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Conditions are very bad in this part of the state. Everything is dry, the grass is short, and there is no market for cattle. It looks like a hard winter ahead of us.

T. L. PATTON.

FARM MACHINERY AND FARM PRODUCTS

FARM MACHINERY in 1924 costs 86 per cent more than in 1913, according to data collected by the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University. Compared with this, the average of prices paid to producers of farm products is only 18 per cent higher. At the prevailing prices of these articles, it now (up to the recent advance) requires 72 per cent more wheat than before the war to buy ten typical farm machines, 48 per cent more corn, 75 per cent more pounds of beef cattle, or over 100 per cent more pounds of hogs. While the amount of farm products exchanged for machinery is considerably below that of the pre-war period, the amount of machinery that farm products will buy is even less.

The number of farm machines bought in 1921 was only about two-thirds of the number bought in 1920. A slight increase in sales occurred in 1922, but the implements now being acquired are considered quite insufficient for maintaining the equipment. Even if the economic depression continues, it is considered imperative for farmers soon to be renewing their tools.

THE CALENDAR

September 22-28, 1924—Dairy Cattle Congress, Waterloo, Iowa.

September 29-October 4, 1924—National Swine Show, Peoria, Ill.

September 30-October 2, 1924—Annual Stocker and Feeder Show, Sioux City, Iowa.

October 28-31, 1924—Annual Stocker and Feeder Show, South St. Joseph, Mo.

November 1-8, 1924—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.

November 15-22, 1924—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.

November 29-December 6, 1924—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.

January 17-24, 1925—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.

"I consider THE PRODUCER the best stockman's magazine printed."—T. L. PATTON, Silver City, N. M.

THE PRODUCER

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GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

UNEVEN, yet definite, expansion in trade marked the close of August, which normally is a quiet period in most lines. Some improvement in the demand for dry goods is noted. Lower cotton prices, declining \$30 a bale in less than a month as a result of revised estimates of the probable crop, have stimulated activity at New England mills. An advancing wool market is proving the healthy condition of that branch, and further rises are looked for. It is estimated that 50 per cent of the 1924 clip is now in buyers' hands. Large orders for railroad equipment are reported in the steel industry, and the rail-mill at Gary has reopened. Automobile sales have increased. Big exports of hides and leather have stiffened prices on these articles, and packers are pretty well sold up. Petroleum production continues brisk, and the southern lumber output is widening. Car-loadings in August were the heaviest of the year.

In most of the states of the Corn Belt the crop outlook has improved, though corn everywhere is late. If frosts hold off during the current month, a fair harvest is assured. Yields of small grains, both in this country and in Canada, are exceeding early expectations, with private estimates of the entire United States wheat crop ranging up to 850,000,000 bushels, as against the 814,000,000 bushels of the government's August report, and with Canada's crop outlook improved by 18,000,000 bushels. As a consequence, prices tend toward lower levels.

Bank clearings are heavy. Call money remains easy, with quotations at 2 per cent. Rates on time money are unchanged at $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 per cent on thirty-to sixty-day loans. The trend in stocks and bonds is irregular. Foreign exchange shows a general upward

movement under the influence of the acceptance of the Dawes plan by all the powers concerned.

MULTIPLICITY OF DISTRIBUTORS

A WRITER in the *New York Times* estimates that there is in this country a food-dealer population of 19,000,000 to a farm population of 33,500,000; in other words, one distributor to each one and three-fourths producer. If these figures are anywhere near correct, they illustrate the utter absurdity of the present system, and the unconscionable extent to which both ends are being bled to support the middle.

Reform of our distributive methods is of first importance. Until these have been simplified and standardized, all other measures will be in the nature of mere makeshifts. No one outside their own rank will maintain that this great army of non-producers serves a useful purpose; that it could not be at least halved with benefit to everybody, including the efficient middleman who survives. Like parasites, they have fastened themselves on a host too weak or bewildered to throw them off. Every attempt, or even suggestion, at wrenching them loose is met with an indignant: "We are here, and we remain!"

Why should producer and consumer continue to support this dead burden? To confine ourselves to the meat trade, why should retailers be suffered to multiply until they are as numerous as were saloons in pre-Volstead days? With a prosperous live-stock industry, they would be an irritating incubus; with stock-growers leaning over the brink of bankruptcy, they are an intolerable imposition.

In other lines of food distribution the chain store is crowding out the individual enterprise or forcing it to improve its methods. Why not in the field of meat-retailing? Chains of well-organized, economically conducted retail shops in our larger cities would give us infinitely better service and materially lower costs, thereby both increasing consumption and at the same time assuring producers of a price that would allow them to live.

Packers should take up this problem for renewed and earnest consideration.

PROGRESS OF PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS

AT THE CLOSE of thirty months' business by the National Live Stock Producers' Association, it is possible to form a definite idea as to the accomplishments and prospects of this organization. Its history during the past two and a half years has been one of continuous growth, warranting the most optimistic expectations of any of the members of the

Committee of Fifteen which originally formulated the plan. Today the thirteen Producer associations are doing a business amounting to \$100,000,000 annually and covering thirty states. Net savings for the current year are estimated to be more than half a million dollars, which will be returned to the 325,000 shippers whom the companies are serving.

During 1923 approximately 70,000 cars of live stock were sold through Producer agencies, bringing in more than \$90,000,000. Of this, the Chicago Producers' Commission Association alone handled 17,712 cars, with a value of \$24,700,000. This represents an increase over the business of the previous year of 58.5 per cent, fairly evenly divided among the different departments. Refunds at Chicago were \$103,462, or 30 per cent of the paid-in commissions.

This encouraging showing should give fresh impetus to the co-operative marketing movement. As increasing volume of business makes new economies possible, the advantages of the system should appeal to an ever wider circle of producers, who will thus get it within their power to contribute directly toward bringing about a greater degree of price stabilization and improved market conditions generally.

RECEIVERS APPOINTED FOR PACKING CONCERN

IN THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST a receivership was appointed by Judge Bondy, of the United States District Court at New York, for Wilson & Co., the Chicago meat-packers. The receivers are Julius M. Mayer, formerly a judge of the United States Circuit Court; Robert L. Morrell, a New York attorney; and Thomas E. Wilson, president of the company. This action, the result of a suit in equity in which the company joined, was taken as a counter-move against proceedings instituted in a New Jersey court by a small stockholder, which led to the naming of a receiver and the temporary withdrawal of the buyers of Wilson & Co. from the market.

This regrettable and unexpected occurrence upsets the efforts of finding a satisfactory solution of the company's financial problems which have been in progress for some time, and, as we understood, with excellent prospects of success. Further developments will be watched with keen interest by live-stock producers. Aside from the good-will inspired by the personality of the head of the firm, they could but regard it as extremely unfortunate if this great firm should be compelled permanently to withdraw from the market, thus further restricting a competition that too often in the past has not been conspicuously in evidence. We hope that its difficulties may be straightened out, and that Wilson & Co. may continue in the packing business as an independent entity.

Charles C. Jameson

After a lingering illness, brought on from overwork, Charles C. Jameson, of Lakeside, Nebraska, died on August 1. Born in San Francisco in 1858, Mr. Jameson at the age of twenty-one came to western Nebraska, where he engaged in the live-stock business, and later also devoted much of his time to banking. For thirty-one years he was connected with the cattle company of Richards & Comstock, operating extensively in Wyoming and Nebraska. After the death of both of these men, he was elected president of the firm, moving his headquarters to Denver, where he lived until returning to Nebraska a few years ago.

Mr. Jameson was for twelve years secretary of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, and from 1918 to 1922 was a member of the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association. A widow and two sons survive him.

MEAT DISTRIBUTION A PACKERS' PROBLEM

J. E. P.

MEAT-DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS REMAIN. Possibly it is a no more serious puzzle than milk distribution. All over the East production of fluid milk has reached a volume where the milk cannot be sold; and yet in the towns a "snit" of the lacteal fluid costs 10 cents, or as much as the grower, only a short distance away, gets for a gallon. Obviously this is not a transportation problem.

Heavy cattle broke \$2 per cwt. between July and late August, but beef-consumers derived no benefit. Asked why, retailers launch into their stereotyped contention that rentals, wages, and other fixed charges dominate prices rather than wholesale beef cost. Packers, on the other hand, insist that retailing meats by them is impracticable. Yet, on a limited scale, they are doing it successfully. Evidence of this may be found at the retail markets operated by Libby, McNeill & Libby, which is Swift & Co. and Wilson & Co. at the Chicago stock-yards. The Swift people also operate a retail market in connection with their Omaha Packing Company's plant at Twenty-third and Halsted Streets. These markets attract buyers from all over Chicago, intent on economy. Three families out of five now possess either motor cars or Fords, which should facilitate vending meats from central markets.

The distribution problem appears to be up to the packers for solution, and such solution would put them on the map again.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION TO BE NAMED BY PRESIDENT

APPOINTMENTS to the Agricultural Inquiry Commission promised by President Coolidge in his speech of acceptance are expected to be made shortly. A list of names of suitable persons has been submitted by Secretary Wallace, including officials of farmers' organizations, members of Congress, and agricultural experts. The task of the commission will be to examine into the needs of agriculture and to recommend legislation for the next session of Congress. One of the problems to be considered will be the attitude to be taken on the McNary-Haugen bill and similar measures.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

STOCK GRAZED ON NATIONAL FORESTS BY STATES

ON PAGE 18 of the August PRODUCER we printed a table giving the number of grazing permits and the number of live stock actually grazed on each of the national forests of the United States, and totals by districts, for the year 1923. Below is a list of stock grazed by states for the calendar years 1923 and 1922:

States	Calendar Year 1923		Calendar Year 1922	
	Cattle and Horses	Sheep and Goats	Cattle and Horses	Sheep and Goats
Alabama.....	172	.....	203	.....
Arizona.....	302,471	287,605	306,759	298,743
Arkansas.....	1,933	53	2,112	99
California.....	200,859	473,812	191,657	447,862
Colorado.....	338,869	846,915	359,196	856,270
Florida.....	861	723	886	704
Idaho.....	164,082	1,443,334	168,136	1,446,269
Montana.....	159,923	606,297	165,477	592,022
Nebraska.....	12,692	.....	11,325	.....
Nevada.....	69,648	291,067	72,771	296,440
New Hampshire.....	211	.....	207	.....
New Mexico.....	133,521	293,888	154,584	349,266
North Carolina.....	1,339	242	1,607	309
Oklahoma.....	3,552	.....	3,550	.....
Oregon.....	135,423	642,625	146,115	675,501
South Dakota.....	30,479	5,000	35,644	4,025
Tennessee.....	612	99	905	148
Utah.....	157,007	750,971	162,752	748,175
Virginia.....	1,864	86	2,147	93
Washington.....	26,650	169,420	26,701	156,894
West Virginia.....	127	114	58	16
Wyoming.....	127,188	605,487	139,704	652,229
Totals.....	1,869,483	6,417,738	1,952,496	6,534,065

FOREST FIRES IN CALIFORNIA

IN THE "FIRE BULLETIN" issued August 13, Chief Forester Greeley reviews the forest-fire situation in California. The extreme drought prevailing throughout the coast region is threatening the most widespread loss of natural resources that has been faced for twenty-five years, we are told, and is giving organized forest protection one of the hardest tests that it has ever experienced. To the middle of August there had been 1,350 forest and brush fires in California alone, burning over about 300,000 acres of land. Nearly a thousand fires had occurred on national forests. Of these, 268 had been traced to smokers and 125 to campers. However, owing to the vigilance and efficiency of the fire-fighters, only about one-half of one per cent of the total area of the forests had been burned. Tribute is paid to the splendid co-operation given by the State Forestry Department, business interests and organizations of the state, the United States army, and the public generally. A reserve force of experienced forest rangers is now being concentrated in California, to be available for any emergency during the remainder of the dry season.

While extensive areas in the national forests of California have been closed to public use, a number of hunting grounds within the forests will remain open to sportsmen, Colonel

Greeley states. This is in contrast with the situation in Oregon, where all hunting has been suspended for the duration of the fire season.

The Forester takes occasion to express his regret at the revival of the old theory that "light" or annual burning "protects" the forests. Thorough tests, he says, have conclusively demonstrated the falsity of this notion. Not only does such burning destroy merchantable timber, but it means the end of all timber-growing for the future, to say nothing of its disastrous effects upon stream-flow.

FORESTRY REGULATIONS AMENDED

AN AMENDMENT to the regulations governing the use and protection of national forests which makes it possible to close them against grazing by live stock during outbreaks of dangerous diseases of domestic animals, such as foot-and-mouth disease and scabies, has been issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. The amendment authorizes the district forester, in case of need, to issue orders to remove cattle, sheep, hogs, or other animals being grazed on the forest, or to prevent their movement into the forest except under special permit.

NEW GOVERNMENT STATION FOR STUDY OF RANGE PROBLEMS

A TRACT of 57,000 acres, comprising most of the old Fort Keogh Military Reservation at Miles City, Montana, has been transferred to the Department of Agriculture by Congress, and is being transformed into an experiment station for the study of "stock-raising and growing of forage crops in connection therewith." Experiments will be conducted jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, the former being responsible for the management and operation of the station.

Live-stock interests have long been seeking for an opportunity to study some of the difficulties of western stockmen on a scale large enough to make the results reliable. The new station is well suited for this purpose. It has both irrigated land for growing forage and typical western grazing land. The average annual rainfall is but fourteen inches, and its winters are severe. The two railroads and the Yellowstone Trail which cross it will make it easily accessible to visitors.

RELIEF FOR RECLAMATION FARMERS

TEMPORARY RELIEF for settlers on irrigated land is provided for by an order of Secretary of the Interior Work to superintendents of reclamation projects to "construe liberally" the terms of the Phipps bill, enacted at the last session of Con-

gress, for the deferment of charges due the government by water-users. New regulations have been issued by the Bureau of Reclamation, giving simplified rules of procedure with respect to such payments.

This action is taken with a view to protecting settlers against foreclosure during the coming season, pending the passage by Congress of permanent legislation for a more scientific method of repayment than prescribed by the present law. President Coolidge, in transmitting the report of the special advisory committee, recommended the charging off of \$27,691,000, representing expenditures by the government in the construction of unproductive irrigation works, and the establishment of a credit fund for water-users to secure capital for permanent improvements and the purchase of equipment and live stock. Congress, however, failed to act on this, and the matter will be pressed again at the next session.

CROP ESTIMATES ADVANCED

THRESHING RETURNS and more favorable weather conditions increased the prospective yields of all grains, as indicated in the government's August report. Winter and spring wheat advanced 46,000,000 and 28,000,000 bushels, respectively; the forecast now being for 589,000,000 and 225,000,000 bushels, or a total for all wheat of 814,000,000 bushels, as against the 786,000,000 harvested last year. Average wheat price on farms on July 15 was \$1.058 a bushel, compared with 89.6 cents on the same date in 1923.

Corn gained 61,000,000 bushels, the August estimate being for a crop of 2,576,000,000 bushels, against 3,054,000,000 bushels last year; this on the assumption that no frost will interfere with its ripening, which everywhere is late. Farm price averaged 98.3 cents a bushel.

The forecast for oats advanced from 1,356,000,000 to 1,439,000,000 bushels. Last year's harvest was of 1,300,000,000 bushels. Farm price was given as 49.4 cents.

Yield of barley was estimated at 184,000,000 bushels, as against 170,000,000 bushels a month earlier and a production of 198,000,000 bushels in 1923. Farm price, 68.8 cents.

Hay promised around the same yield as last year—89,000,000 tons.

Some deterioration in cotton prospects is noted. Average condition on August 1 was given as 67.4 per cent of normal, against 71.2 per cent on June 25. A crop of 12,351,000 bales is the latest forecast, compared with 10,128,478 bales last year. On July 15 the average price was 27.3 cents a pound, as against 24.8 cents on the same date last year.

FARM INCOMES 1920-24

STUDIES OF FARM INCOMES since the price decline which began in 1920 have just been completed by the Department of Agriculture. It is found that these incomes have not been sufficient to allow both a commercial interest return on the capital invested and an adequate wage for the labor of the average farm operator and his family. If a conservative interest return is figured for the use of his capital, the operator earned less than he paid his hired hands. On the other hand, if a wage as high as that paid common laborers is calculated for the average operator, his net capital investment in 1920-21 involved a loss of 3.1 per cent, in 1921-22 a loss of 1.4 per cent, in 1922-23 earnings of 1.5 per cent, and in 1923-24 earnings of 1.4 per cent. At the same time, he paid over 6 per cent on borrowed capital. In addition, the value of all property (land and buildings, implements, live stock, and working capital) employed in agriculture during the five-year period in question was written down from \$79,607,000,000 to \$59,409,

000,000, and the farmers' own capital investment from \$48,500,000,000 to \$33,400,000,000.

RATES ON GRAIN AND HAY FOUND NOT UNREASONABLE

IN OCTOBER, 1923, an investigation was instituted, upon its own motion, by the Interstate Commerce Commission, with a view to determining "whether and to what extent, if any, the rates, charges, regulations, and practices of carriers subject to the Interstate Commerce Act, in respect of the transportation of grain, grain products, and hay, in interstate or foreign commerce, are unjust, unreasonable, or otherwise unlawful." After a full examination of all matters involved, the commission, on July 10, 1924, filed its report, finding: (1) that "the present record necessitates no change in the basis of approximate value for rate-making purposes in the western district adopted by the commission in 1920 and reviewed in 1922;" (2) that, "whether or not expenditures for maintenance of equipment in 1923 were to some extent abnormal, the conclusion is not warranted that the earnings of carriers in the western district were in excess of a fair return;" (3) that "the general basis of rates . . . for the transportation of grain, grain products, and hay . . . does not appear to be unreasonable or otherwise in violation of the Interstate Commerce Act."

WESTERN SHEEP RATE CASE DISMISSED

IN MAY, 1924, complaints were filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission by certain individuals and associations engaged in the live-stock business, alleging that the carload minima and resultant charges on sheep in double-deck cars from points in Utah, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to Denver, Chicago, and Missouri River crossings, in force on railroads in western classification territory, were unreasonable. The commission in its decision, now rendered, holds that the carload minima are directly related to the rates per 100 pounds in connection with which they apply, that the propriety of the minima cannot be determined without considering the measure of these rates, and that the minima, so considered, are not unreasonable or unduly prejudicial. The complaints are therefore dismissed.

SOUTHWESTERN LIVE-STOCK RATES

APPPLICATIONS by a number of carriers for authority to continue rates on live stock between points in southwestern freight bureau territory, and between such points and points in western trunk line territory, without observing the long-and-short-haul provision of the fourth section of the Interstate Commerce Act, have been denied by the Interstate Commerce Commission, except for such relief as has heretofore been authorized. Most of these orders are to become effective February 20, 1925.

Corn in Argentina

The final official estimate of the Argentine corn crop for 1923-24 gives a harvest of 270,000,000 bushels.

Canada's Wheat Crop

Official estimates of Canada's wheat crop for the current year suggest a harvest of 282,000,000 bushels, compared with 474,000,000 bushels harvested in 1923. If this estimate is correct, Canada's exportable surplus will be only about 50 per cent of last year's. (A later private estimate places the crop at 300,000,000 bushels.)

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN AUGUST

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., September 1, 1924.

IN A LONDON MUSIC HALL, many years ago, the writer heard Chevalier, a noted English comedian, sing a ditty exemplifying the dampfoolishness of the English sparrow. It ran this way:

"The bloomin', blasted sparrow
Went up the bleedin' spout.
The blasted rain came down
And drove the bloomin' sparrow out.
The blasted sun came out
And dried up the bleedin' rain,
And the bloomin', blasted sparrow
Went up the bloody spout again."

A certain element in American cattle-feeding circles is endowed with the same impulse as the spout-returning sparrow. They encounter grief at the market; then return home to make another crop. Year in and year out they pursue the heavy-cattle chimera, ignoring precedent and oft-repeated penalty. With vicissitude they never seem to be surfeited.

Public Wants Light Beef

Possibly the punishment which they have had to take recently when these heavy bullocks declined \$2 per cwt., and even more, may convert at least some of them to the idea that the trade demands light beef. The only excuse for making a crop of heavy steers for the midsummer market was the fact that in August, 1923, \$13.10 was paid for that type. The debacle was accentuated on this occasion by an unprecedented advance in corn, which put the feed-bill at a prohibitive level; the effect being a rush of half-fat and merely warmed-up weighty steers that would have been held another thirty to sixty days had the course of the corn market been normal.

Heavy Cattle Go Begging

Midsummer cattle-trade conditions have been deplorable. Owing to a cold, wet season, summer-hotel beef trade did not materialize; the Jewish element that buys heavy kosher beef appeared to be on a prolonged period of abstinence; and thousands of big bullocks, laid in when heavy cattle went to a \$12 to \$12.50 basis in the spring, congested every market in the country. Instead of getting a run of grassers in August, Kansas City wrestled with a crop of corn-feds, and at Chicago a fat-stock show was held daily. During the last two weeks of August an accumulation of several thousand of these big cattle occurred, some of them hanging around ten days without getting a bid, until, in desperation, salesmen invited buyers to mark the tickets. A clearance was tardily effected by putting prices down to a \$9 to \$10 basis, against \$11 to \$12.25 for similar cattle at the high time.

Big Bullock Unpopular

What did it? Too many heavy cattle. All through this period of tribulation light steers, especially fat yearlings, could be moved, and there was a regular outlet for common steers that had been generously fed. Every drove of bullocks weighing 1,100 pounds or less, that reached the market during the period when big bullocks could not be moved at any reasonable figure, got prompt action. When the big ones declined \$1 per cwt., yearlings merely lost 25 cents. The moral is obvious, and

should be heeded. Distributors can sell light beef, while big cuts hang in their coolers. Making fat cattle in expectation of an \$11 to \$12 market is a delusion; also a snare. When the product of such cattle reach the ultimate consumer, its cost is prohibitive except to a few, and that limited demand is easily satisfied. The average retailer will not handle heavy beef. He utilizes his experience, which many feeders do not.

Low-Grade Grassers Discriminated Against

Nor does the public want low-grade grass beef. This is illustrated by a prompt clearance of 800- to 1,100-pound corn-fed cattle at \$9.50 to \$10.75, while grassers of similar weight are not wanted at \$5.50 to \$7.50, and, even when fed some corn, do not earn enough additional money to pay their board. While all the decently finished light cattle have been good property, thin, grassy stuff has had no reliable trading basis. Grass heifers have sold at \$5.50 to \$6.50, while corn-feds of the same weight, and frequently of the same quality, have been eligible to \$9.50 to \$10.50. A few heavy grain-fed cows have earned \$7.50 to \$8, while thousands of grassers have had to sell at \$4 to \$5.50. The beef-buying public is discriminating. It has a definite idea of what it wants, and is willing to pay the price, economizing by reducing the size of the package, which explains the insistent call for yearlings.

Cow Trade Goes to Pieces

The cow market went to pieces a month earlier than usual this year. One week killers were paying \$8 for females that had difficulty in getting \$6 the next. No explanation was forthcoming, except that cow beef could not be moved. Probably a free movement of Texas and other grass steers, selling at low prices, was responsible. Canner prices flirted with the \$2 mark at Chicago, and in the Southwest went even lower. The market has been glutted with dark-colored grass beef all summer, and not even the sophistry of mendacious salesmanship has been equal to the task of working it off on the public, thousands of tons of such product going to boners at any price they saw fit to pay. Ultimately this meat finds its way into delicatessen trade in various cooked and doctored forms. In fresh condition the market cannot absorb it.

Calves Are Good Property

Calves, like light steers and heifers, are good property. It has been a \$12 to \$14 market for good to choice calves right along, every session witnessing a scramble. Veal is tender and palatable, and has the distinct additional advantage of being purchasable in small quantities. If half the scrub and nondescript matured cattle that hang around the stock-yards begging for bids could be vealed at the 150- to 200-pound stage, producers would get better results.

Undesirable Hogs Force Down Prices

An unpromising corn crop was responsible for dumping at least half a million undesirable hogs into the market hopper

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during August, and adversely affecting prices to that extent. Had the ten principal markets received one and a half million head, instead of the two million that reported, it would probably have been a \$10 market for the bulk of the good ones. As it happened, a mass of light and skippy trash exerted a demoralizing influence. At Chicago anywhere from 10,000 to 20,000 undesirable hogs, frequently more, have been carried along from day to day, buyers sorting out of the mass such as they could use when under necessity created by deficiency of good hogs. They took this trash at anywhere from \$5 to \$7.50 per cwt., when good hogs were selling at \$9.50 to \$10.25.

Good Quality Gets Quick Action

Supply pressure has been relaxed. At ten markets during August there were 200,000 less than a year ago, and when weight and quality were taken into consideration the deficiency was even greater. At all times good hogs have been cleared with reasonable celerity; at no time was the task of selling grassers and mixed stuff courted.

Corn Boom Responsible for Liquidation

Possibly growers have made a mistake in throwing overboard thin sows and light pigs, the net proceeds of the sales of such trash being small. It has little value to killers, as cost of processing is about the same per head as in the case of good hogs, the risk greater, and net returns smaller. But for the boom in corn, this liquidation would not have occurred.

Supply of Finished Hogs to Be Reduced

If, under normal corn-crop conditions, pig production was reduced 20 per cent compared with last year, as government reports indicate, liquidation of the past sixty days will further reduce the supply of finished hogs to be marketed during the coming winter season. The extent to which the crop has been further depleted in this manner will have much to do with determining the winter course of the market. If, under present conditions, good hogs can be maintained on a \$10 basis, a \$12 trade would not be improbable on a short winter crop, especially in view of the certainty that other meats will be correspondingly high. Stocks of lard and meats in packers' cellars are being rapidly reduced under broad domestic consumption and a fair volume of export trade, which is likely to expand if the Dawes plan becomes effective, as Germany is known to be in pressing need of both lard and meats.

Doubtful Policy to Sacrifice Pigs

Further corn-crop improvement during September will probably check liquidation of young hogs and breeding stock. Although dollar corn cannot be profitably fed to \$9.50 to \$10 hogs, there is an excellent prospect that corn will descend from its present lofty price perch, and many growers are sensing the fact that sacrificing pigs capable of developing into good hogs at \$5.50 to \$6.50 per cwt. is doubtful policy. The year 1925 may develop a hog shortage.

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Lamb Values Holding Up Well

Lamb values have been well sustained all summer. Only when supply fluctuated violently did the market lose its stride. Late in August producers crowded a healthy market and broke prices 50 to 75 cents; but the moment selling pressure relaxed, recovery was in evidence. Western lambs have reached killers none too good, and the much-advertised substantial increase in natives did not materialize. During August lambs sold up to \$14.35, the bulk of the crop cashing at \$13 to \$14, with the feeder end of the western run at \$12.50 to \$13.25, the spread between feeding and killing lambs being unusually narrow. A series of strong week-end markets revealed underlying strength, as killers do not turn buyers loose at advancing prices late in the week, when their coolers are full of meat. They even competed with country buyers on lambs in good feeder flesh, which is suggestive of a healthy dressed-lamb trade.

Feeders Want Light Stuff

Corn Belt feeders would have taken more lambs at the prices, but they back away at the first sign of substantial supply increase. They want light lambs, weighing sixty pounds down, and are willing to pay a premium to get them. So far no lambs have gone in for winter feed, so that the market has not been made; but there is not even a remote prospect of cheap feeding lambs. Standard types may get down to \$12 or thereabout during September and October, but it is doubtful, as a 50-cent break will prompt filling a lot of orders.

Fat Sheep Decline

A decline of \$1.50 to \$2 per cwt. in fat sheep during the latter half of August was neither illogical nor unseasonable. The July rise was effected on meager receipts, and killers admit that they can use a little heavy mutton regardless of cost; but the moment they get a few too many fat sheep, prices melt away. At the high point fat western ewes sold at \$7.25 to \$7.75; when the wreckage had been cleaned up, \$6.75 was the limit, and \$6 took a good class, plenty of native stuff selling from \$5 down. Evidently no confidence can be put in a high sheep market, when the arrival of a few carloads breaks prices a dollar or more.

Trade on Ewe-and-Lamb Basis

Live-mutton trade has gone on a ewe-and-lamb basis, not enough wethers or yearlings being available this season to make a reliable set of quotations. A few yearlings have sold at \$9.50 to \$10.50, and some aged wethers at \$8 to \$8.75; but these types of sheep are in the disappearance stage. There is no inducement to carry wether lambs into the yearling stage, and making aged wethers is an economic impossibility.

Bankers Advising Breeders to Go Slow

There is a disposition among Mississippi Valley and eastern farmers to exercise caution when making investments in breeding sheep. They have paid \$6.50 to \$7.50 for full-mouthed ewes, and up to \$11.25 for yearlings; but this trade is of limited volume, despite an advancing wool market and a \$13 to \$13.75 trade in native lambs. If full-mouthed western ewes were available at \$6 to \$6.50, and yearlings at \$9 to \$10, any number could be absorbed; but country bankers have learned in the school of experience that it is possible to acquire breeding stock high, only to liquidate at a loss, and their advice to prospective buyers is to go slow. In fact, when such buyers are under the necessity of borrowing money to buy ewes, the banker insists on having his way. He may be right or wrong, but, if precedent is worth anything, the average country banker is an indifferent counselor in the specific matter of sheep investment.

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HIGH CORN RESTRICTS STOCKER TRADE

J. E. P.

ABOUT THE LAST THING the average Corn Belt feeder has given serious consideration since the corn crop fell behind its schedule is stock cattle. Investment in fleshy feeders quit overnight when the country sensed trouble in the fat-cattle market, and when cash corn crossed the dollar line the whole stocker trade went stale. This was somewhat surprising, in view of the fact that the entire Mississippi Valley was full of feed and a bargain sale of stock cattle was in daily progress.

Not that the market wholly disappeared, because somebody always has money to spend; but the output dropped to unseasonably small volume, and had any substantial run of western cattle materialized at that juncture, a clearance would have been impossible.

A booming corn market never stimulates investment in stock cattle, and, in this instance, as corn went up cattle came down. The insignificant minority that always "coppers" the play of the majority was in evidence, even at the period of demoralization late in August when anywhere from \$9 to \$10.50 was paid for fat cattle to take back to the country.

There has, however, been but little of this business; in fact, heavy feeders, so popular a year ago, have been taboo. The movement to the country has been mainly light steers susceptible of being grazed down in cost, and in many cases buyers have been insistent on getting all the cattle possible for the money, involving sacrifice in the matter of quality. A lot of little \$4.50 to \$5.50 stuff has gone out, while feeders have shown reluctance to pay \$7 for the best steer that walked.

Volume of winter cattle-feeding will be determined largely by the corn-crop outcome, which, at this writing, is debatable and decidedly uncertain. A warm, frostless September will make a lot of feed, if not insure a fair crop of corn; but the average feeder is backing away, in fright, from a dollar-corn prospect, although every scrap of trade "dope" justifies the assertion that feeding high-priced corn is usually profitable. By the time the Corn Belt gets into winter quarters it will probably be found that cattle on feed are numerically below those of a year ago, and that relatively few heavy steers have been put in.

THE KANSAS CITY MARKET

BY M. Y. GRIFFIN

[Bureau of Agricultural Economics]

KANSAS CITY, Mo., September 1, 1924.

COMPARATIVELY HEAVY RECEIPTS of grain-fed steers were received during the month of August, due no doubt to the rapid price advances scored in the corn market. Grass steers and weighty grain-feds were discriminated against at all times, while yearlings and handy-weights met a fairly active outlet. Prices on all grades of beef steers are sharply lower. Heavy grain-feds and grassers suffered losses of \$1 to \$1.50, while yearlings and handy-weights declined 25 to 50 cents. Light yearling steers scaling 822 pounds topped at \$11.50, with best handy-weights landing at \$11.25. Heavy steers cashed up to \$11.10 early in the month, but on late days very few lots sold above \$10.25. The bulk of grain-fed steers and


yearlings are selling within a spread of \$7.75 to \$10. Straight grassers are going mostly at \$5 to \$7, feeder-buyers paying upward to \$7.50 for a few of the better grades. Common Oklahomas were fairly numerous at \$4.25 to \$5.

Grain-fed cows and heifers were in light quota, and prices show little or no change. Numerous lots of heavy fed heifers have turned at \$8.50 to \$9.55, while odd head of choice grain-fed cows brought up to \$7.50. Range cows and heifers cashed at price levels 25 to 50 cents lower, with the better kinds showing the most loss. Some forced liquidation of she-stock is reported, but the chief reason for the low prices is the fact that buyers are able to secure common grass steers, which move in the beef to relatively better advantage, at approximately the same figure. The bulk of grass cows are going at \$3.25 to \$4.25, with canners and cutters from \$2 to \$3. Bulls are closing 50 to 75 cents lower. Native bolognas are cashing at \$3.75 to \$4.25, and rough westerns down to \$2.65. Vealers and medium-weight calves scored price gains of \$1 to \$2, with the practical top resting at \$10.50 on closing days. Heavy calves were in larger quota and are only 50 cents to \$1 higher.

Movement of stockers and feeders to the country during the month was approximately 93,000 head, or about half the number of a year ago. A severe break in the fat-cattle market repeated itself in the stocker and feeder contingent, and, as a result, feeders are selling 25 to 50 cents lower. Stockers, on the other hand, have found a fairly broad clearance—due no doubt to the high price of corn and the abundance of forage. The bulk of stockers are clearing at \$4.75 to \$6.75, with choice offerings upward to \$7.25. The better end of feeders are selling at \$6.75 to \$7.75, while the plain end cash on down to \$5.50 and below. Stock cows and heifers have been in good demand and show a gain of 25 to 50 cents, and calves an upturn of 50 to 75 cents. Stock cows were selling at \$2.75 to \$3.50, with choice cows upward to \$4.25, on closing sessions, and thin heifers at \$3.50 to \$5.25, with selected offerings upward to \$5.75. Choice Whiteface calves are selling at \$7.25 to \$7.50. The bulk of calves cash at \$5 to \$7.

Aggregate receipts of hogs for the past month show a slight decrease as compared with both July of this year and August a year ago. Trading during the month under review has been somewhat uneven, and a spread of \$1.05 per 100 pounds between the high and low tops for the period was scored. During the first week in August best butchers sold up to \$10.30, which was the highest price paid, and on two different occasions the top was as low as \$9.25. As a whole, the general market is closing from 25 to 40 cents higher than the final session last month, with a late top of \$9.70 for strictly desirable medium-weight offerings. Shipping orders have been moderate, and at times packer buyers were very bearish; but, as a rule, there seemed to be a fairly healthy demand for the bulk of the arrivals. Most of the receipts have been heavier weights than is customary for this season of the year, and more finished hogs have been on display, which has no doubt been partly responsible for the strength shown in the market. Packing sows are 25 to 35 cents higher, with the bulk selling on late days at \$8.25 to \$8.50. Demand for stock pigs the latter half of the month has been very limited, and prices have declined anywhere from \$1.50 to \$2, as compared with July's closing figures. The bulk of the more desirable strong-weights are selling at \$7 to \$7.50 at present, against \$8.75 to \$9.25 a month previous.

The run of range sheep and lambs from territory tributary to the local market attained sufficient volume late in the month to force lamb prices 25 to 50 cents below the previous month's close, and 50 to 75 cents below the month's high time. Colorado lambs made the top price at \$14, but the bulk of range offerings went at \$13 to \$13.50. Natives on the high spot scored \$13.85, and sales above \$13 were fairly numerous; but at the close \$12.25 to \$12.50 secured the best. After mid-month



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the supply of fat sheep was fairly liberal, and prices broke sharply. Closing values are \$1 to \$1.25 below the July close, and around \$1.50 below the current month's high time. Choice light-weight Colorado ewes topped at \$7.25, with a similar kind worth \$5.50 to \$5.75 at the close. Feeding-lamb prices declined from the month's high point, but values are on about a steady basis when compared with the previous month's close. Late sales ranged largely from \$11.50 to \$11.85.

THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

DENVER, COLO., September 1, 1924.

MARKETING of all classes of live stock was liberal at Denver during the month of August. Good-quality cattle found a fairly active demand at all times, but the plainer grades, especially grass cows, were slow to move. A few dry-lot steers continue to arrive, and such stock sold under fairly strong competition. A few years ago practically no dry-lot steers were marketed at Denver later than the last of June. Feeders, however, are following the practice of those farther east, and now provide a limited supply throughout the summer months. This supply is practically exhausted, and grass steers will make up the bulk here from now on. Dry-lot steers sold early in August up to \$10. On August 14 a top of \$10.50 was paid for one load of fancy steers, and a few sales were made during the mid-month period at \$10.10 to \$10.25. However, at the close of the month desirable grades were quoted only to \$10, and a fair kind sold around \$9 to \$9.50. Grass steers sold at \$6.50 to \$7.50 for a fair to good grade during the greater part of the month. Grass cows found outlet early in August at \$4.50 to \$5.65, but the market declined somewhat, and late in the month quotations for the fair to good kinds ranged from \$4 to \$5. Dry-lot heifers sold around \$8 to \$9.50 during the month, but at the close very few were coming.

Feeder demand is picking up at Denver. A good trade was reported during the greater portion of the month, and indications point to a large volume of business during the fall. At the beginning of August feeder steers were selling at \$6.50 to \$7.60. During the mid-month sessions feeder-buyers paid \$8 to \$8.25 for a few choice fleshy feeders, but at the close of the month the best grades were stopped at \$7.75.

Liberal supplies of cattle are expected here during the fall shipping season, as the western range country will liquidate

quite extensively during the next four months. However, a very satisfactory feeder demand is anticipated. The acreage of sugar-beets in Colorado is heavy, and the crop prospect is reported very good in most sections. This means plenty of beet-pulp and tops for finishing, and a strong demand for feeders from Colorado. Corn in Kansas and Nebraska is reported to be making excellent progress now, and a fair yield is anticipated. Other feeds are plentiful, and these states are expected to demand a large number of feeder cattle on the Denver market. The result should be a good market throughout the fall season at this point.

Hog prices held up well during the month, in the face of an increased supply. California shipping demand furnished strong competition for local packers and small killers, with the result that top prices at Denver were almost uniformly higher than at river markets, and not infrequently close to the Chicago top. Top hogs sold here at the beginning of the month at \$9.50. By the middle of August they were bringing \$9.70, and at the close \$9.85. On September 2 a top of \$10 was registered.

Growers and finishers maintain that the price of corn and hogs does not yet afford a comfortable margin of profit for the finisher, but further advances are predicted.

August sheep supply is always light at Denver, and this year was no exception to the rule. Prices show a slight falling-off as compared with the late July trade. Fat lambs were selling at that time at around \$12.50 to \$12.75; mid-August advances carried the market to around \$13.25 for best fat lambs; but this advance was lost later, and good lambs at the close of the month were quoted at \$12.50 to \$12.65. Fat ewes also suffered some decline. Good ewes were selling a month ago at \$5 to \$6.25; at the close of August they were bringing \$5 to \$5.25, although they went to \$6.50 during the best time about the middle of the month.

Feeder lambs found ready outlet during the entire month. Feeder-buyers are beginning to show up here from the Corn Belt country, and the demand for stock to turn on stubble-fields in Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri is already developing. This demand is expected to be strong during the month of September, and indications point to a liberal supply of stock, as the lambs from the Colorado forest reserves will run early this year. Feeder lambs sold from \$10 to \$11 during the early part of August. Fifteen days later the best grades were quoted at \$11.50. Late declines, however, resulted in a slight loss, and at the close of August good feeders were selling at \$11 to \$11.25.

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THE OMAHA MARKET

BY CHARLES BRUCE

[Bureau of Agricultural Economics]

OMAHA, NEB., September 1, 1924.

THERE WAS A NOTICEABLE INABILITY of the market to assimilate killing classes of cattle throughout the month of August, and there was a lower drift to values. The country turned loose a liberal movement of weighty bullocks, and it was these kinds that apparently were indigestible. Compared with the end of July the net loss on both beef steers and she-stock amounts to \$1 to \$1.50. Toward the close of the month choice yearlings and handy-weight fed steers were in fair demand, and values were stable; but heavy fed bullocks went begging. The extreme top for the month, paid for handy-weight steers, reached \$11.25, while the limit on weighty beefs was \$10.40, with light steers upward to \$11, and the general run of fed steers and yearlings at a spread of \$8.25 to \$10.

Burdensome liquidation of grass cows and heifers resulted in sweeping declines, and during the middle of the month canners and cutters, as well as the in-between grades of she-stock, were reported at the lowest levels since 1907. The cause for the cheapness of grass she-stock is attributed to the poor demand for grass meats. Closing prices on canners and cutters reflect a touch of betterment from the low time in the middle of the month. Closing bulk on grass cows was \$3.25 to \$4, with heifers largely going at \$3.50 to \$5.50, an extreme top of \$6.75 being paid for spayed westerns. Canners and cutters are now moving at \$2.50 to \$3.

The break of prices for heavy beef steers and high corn prices lessened the interest of feeder-buyers for fleshy feeders, and these kinds toward the end of the month featured in a dull, sticky trade, while light steers held their own. Thin cows and heifers, in sympathy with fat cows and heifers, weakened, the loss for the month being 50 to 75 cents. The extreme top on fleshy range feeders reached \$8.20, but few sales were made above \$7.50, with good and choice feeders at the close of the period moving at \$6.25 to \$7, and thin stocker steers mostly at \$5.25 to \$6.50. Thin cows moved largely at \$3 to \$3.50, with heifers upward to \$5.

Local packer demand for hogs throughout the month displayed fair breadth, with shipping interests giving the trade good support. As a result, supplies have met with daily clearances, and the trend to values is higher. During the first week of August choice medium-weight butchers reached the \$10 mark, but the bulk of medium- and strong-weight butchers have found release for the month mostly within the \$9.25 to \$9.50 spread. Compared with closing values in July, current prices reflect an advance of 50 cents to \$1, with packing grades showing the maximum gains. The current bulk of sales range from \$8.60 to \$9.65.

Nothing of a discouraging nature happened in live-mutton circles. It is true that closing quotations for fat lambs show a loss of 25 to 50 cents, with sheep around \$1 lower than at the end of July; but when this break is considered, the heavy receipts must also be accounted for. No sharp fluctuations

were noted in fat lambs. On the crest of advances the \$14 quotations appeared for choice westerns, while on the downward swing the limit was \$13, the bulk of the month's sales of fat range lambs clearing from \$13 to \$13.50. The fact that June trade in fat sheep was on a hand-to-mouth basis explains the decline, as receipts increased. Handy-weight fat ewes toward the end of August cleared mostly at \$5 to \$5.50, and heavy ewes downward to \$4.

There has been no hesitancy shown by Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri feeders in taking on feeding lambs, although local feeders have been very sparing in their purchases up to date, and the market has carried a healthy tone throughout the month of August. A good many of the local feeders are awaiting corn-crop developments, but, although supplies have been liberal for August, everything available has found a ready sale. A spread of \$12 to \$12.50 has taken in the bulk of the range feeding lambs on offer, while the extreme limit on feeding lambs reached \$13.25. Breeding ewes are meeting with a cordial reception, full-mouths selling at a spread of \$5 to \$7.50, with a few sales of three- and four-year-olds upward to \$8. Not enough yearlings have been included to give a basis for prices.

THE PORTLAND MARKET

[Bureau of Agricultural Economics]

NORTH PORTLAND, ORE., September 1, 1924.

INCREASED CATTLE AND CALF RECEIPTS during August, as compared with July, of which the majority were off-quality kinds, resulted in a lower price trend on most bovine classes. The month closed with common and medium steers and she-stock 25 to 50 cents lower, best light veal calves 50 cents lower, and canners and cutters, as well as bulls, around 25 cents under last month's closing levels. The bulk of the beef steers throughout the month landed from \$5 to \$7, with a fair sprinkling of more desirable offerings at \$7.25 to \$7.50, and the extreme top for the month was \$8, paid for one good load of handy-weight beefs. Cows and heifers landed generally from \$3.25 to \$4.75, with scattering sales from \$5 to \$5.25, and in rare instances \$5.50 was reached. Best light vealers at the month's end were going at \$9.50 to \$10, while \$4.50 to \$9 was taking most of the heavies and thin-fleshed light-weights. Bologna bulls have ranged generally from \$3 to \$3.75, with odd head on the beef order from \$4 to \$4.50.

A slight decrease was noted in hog arrivals in August as compared with July figures. The upward climb of prices which started late in July continued until mid-month, when a peak of \$11.50 was reached. The trend since then has been steadily downward, and at the close of August most hog classes were quotable from 50 to 75 cents lower than a month ago, with feeder pigs almost unsalable at 50 cents to \$1.50 lower. Desirable 160- to 200-pound butchers sold at the end of August mostly at \$10 to \$10.25, with weightier butchers downward from \$9.75, and heavy packers and throw-outs at \$7 to \$8.50. The bulk of slaughter pigs during the month landed from \$9 to \$10.50, but toward the close \$9.50 was taking the cream of the supply. Feeders have found extremely hard sledding, and at the end of August a supply of over 600 had accumulated, on which sellers were still asking \$8 for best offerings; but most holdings were without bids.

August sheep and lamb receipts showed a falling-off as compared with the previous month's figures. Demand was fairly good, and closing quotations are 25 to 75 cents higher on lambs and about steady on aged stock, as compared with a month ago. Best Mount Adams lambs are quotable up to \$10.75, and Valley offerings toward the month's close sold

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mostly at \$10.25 to \$10.75. Most sales at the latter figure were with a \$10 to \$15 dock on account of heavies and culls. Aged stock arrived in very limited numbers, and values in these classes did not receive a real test. A few yearlings ranged from \$7.50 to \$8. Odd head of wethers brought \$6 to \$7.50, and most of the ewes landed from \$4.50 down, with no choice light-weights included.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-five markets for the month of July, 1924, compared with July, 1923, and for the seven months ending with July, 1924 and 1923:

RECEIPTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Cattle.....	1,798,024	1,903,201	12,013,361	11,908,287
Hogs.....	4,091,365	4,180,908	33,503,324	31,952,115
Sheep.....	1,671,593	1,660,814	10,389,717	10,759,868

TOTAL SHIPMENTS*

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Cattle.....	641,370	746,981	4,448,507	4,547,348
Hogs.....	1,476,785	1,495,688	12,238,547	10,999,404
Sheep.....	711,977	710,235	4,725,055	4,861,967

*Includes stockers and feeders.

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Cattle.....	169,070	223,178	1,471,142	1,680,234
Hogs.....	22,624	33,783	303,161	438,790
Sheep.....	225,910	187,783	940,019	1,056,974

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Cattle.....	1,141,167	1,104,345	7,481,407	7,259,620
Hogs.....	2,605,398	2,651,881	21,220,120	20,907,977
Sheep.....	959,493	935,988	5,673,812	5,880,181

LIVE-STOCK AND MEAT MARKETS AS SEEN BY PACKERS

REVIEWING THE LIVE-STOCK AND MEAT SITUATION in August, the Institute of American Meat Packers says in part:

CATTLE

"With moderate to heavy receipts of cattle, including liberal supplies of grass-fed animals from the Southwest, the market was weak and draggy, closing considerably lower, especially on heavy grades.

"The dressed-beef market was rather dull, with a widening price spread between beef from heavy and light animals. With a consuming demand turning to lighter cuts, light cattle showed some improvement during the latter part of the month. Hind-quarters sold during most of the month at an unusually large premium over forequarters. The harvest demand, toward the latter part, restored prices to a more normal relationship. There was a noticeable decline in the demand for sausage materials, with a consequent decline in prices.

"The hide market was active, with rising prices. Stocks are sold very closely up to production.

PORK AND SWINE

"As in previous months, export trade during August was somewhat quiet, although improved as compared with July. Prices of meats in the English markets improved, and those packers who had a supply of English meats enjoyed a good trade. Trade with the continent, both in the case of lard and meats, was rather limited.

"In the domestic field, there was a good demand throughout the month for pork products and lard. The fresh pork trade was somewhat spotted. Smoked hams remained fairly steady throughout the month, and bacon, which was in good demand, advanced somewhat. There was a very good trade in lard, with a consequent reduction of stocks and strengthening of prices.

"The hog market was strong through the entire month, the average price at Chicago remaining well above \$9 after the opening day of the month. Receipts were uneven, and prices fluctuated more than was the case during several previous months, when the market was remarkably stable. The quality of the receipts, on the whole, remained very inferior, and the average yield of meat per animal was unusually low. The market for the products has not yet caught up with the advanced live market, with the result that cutting losses on currently marketed products continued during most of the month.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

"Although receipts were very liberal (mostly of range lambs), prices rose steadily up to the last week of the month, when an increase in the run brought a sharp break. The demand for feeders was good, at steady prices.

"The eastern markets for the dressed product were fairly active, but prices were weak.

"The wool trade was very active during the month, with a considerable rise in prices and marked improvement in the sales situation."

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of storage holdings of frozen and cured meats on August 1, 1924, as compared with August 1, 1923, and average holdings on August 1 for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	August 1, 1924	August 1, 1923	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	29,243,000	24,112,000	70,970,000
*Cured beef.....	20,372,000	21,781,000	22,695,000
Lamb and mutton.....	2,254,000	2,752,000	4,475,000
Frozen pork.....	164,461,000	195,002,000	151,056,000
*Dry salt pork.....	202,002,000	221,716,000	276,192,000
*Pickled pork.....	443,795,000	449,441,000	391,283,000
Miscellaneous.....	67,654,000	68,355,000	74,840,000
Totals.....	929,781,000	983,159,000	991,511,000
Lard.....	150,243,000	143,579,000	154,632,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

FEEDSTUFFS

A DECIDED REDUCTION is noted in the price of cottonseed cake and meal since last month. At the beginning of September it was selling, f. o. b. Texas points, for \$36.50. The hay market at Kansas City on September 2 stood as follows: Prairie—No. 1, \$10 to \$11; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9.50; No. 3, \$5.50 to \$8; packing, \$5 to \$5.50; midland—No. 1, \$5.50 to \$9.50; No. 2, \$3.50 to \$5; lowland—No. 1, \$5.50 to \$7.50; No. 2, \$3.50 to \$5; alfalfa—select dairy, \$22 to \$24; choice, \$20.50 to \$21.50; No. 1, \$19 to \$20; standard, \$17 to \$18.50; No. 2, \$14.50 to \$16.50; No. 3, \$10 to \$14; timothy—No. 1, \$16 up; standard, \$15 to \$15.50; No. 2, \$13.50 to \$14; No. 3, \$11.50 to \$13; clover-mixed—light, \$16 up; No. 1, \$14.50 to \$15.50; No. 2, \$11 to \$14; clover—No. 1, \$15 to \$16; No. 2, \$11 to \$14.50; straw—\$6.50 to \$7.

LIVE-STOCK MARKET QUOTATIONS

Friday, August 29, 1924

CATTLE AND CALVES

STEERS (1,100 lbs. up):	CHICAGO	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA
Choice and Prime.....	\$ 9.85-11.00	\$ 9.50-10.85	\$ 9.50-11.00
Good	8.85-10.10	8.65- 9.65	8.35-10.00
Medium	6.50- 9.35	6.35- 8.35	6.45- 8.75
Common	5.25- 6.75	4.50- 6.35	4.25- 6.35
STEERS (1,100 lbs. down):			
Choice and Prime.....	9.75-11.00	9.85-11.00	10.00-11.00
Good	9.00-10.10	8.75-10.00	8.85-10.00
Medium	6.35- 9.35	5.75- 8.85	6.00- 8.85
Common	4.50- 6.75	4.25- 5.75	4.25- 6.00
Canners and Cutters	3.00- 4.50	3.25- 4.25	3.00- 4.25
LIGHT YEARLING STEERS AND HEIFERS:			
Good to Prime.....	8.85-10.75	8.50-10.40	8.50-10.50
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice.....	7.65-10.50	6.35- 9.65	6.25- 9.50
Common to Medium.....	4.25- 7.65	3.50- 6.35	3.25- 6.25
COWS:			
Good to Choice.....	5.40- 7.75	4.75- 7.60	4.25- 7.75
Common to Medium.....	3.50- 5.40	3.15- 4.75	3.00- 4.25
Canners and Cutters.....	2.25- 3.50	2.00- 3.15	2.00- 3.00
BULLS:			
Good to Choice.....	4.65- 6.75	4.25- 5.75	4.00- 6.50
Canners to Medium.....	2.75- 4.75	2.65- 4.25	2.75- 4.00
CALVES:			
Medium to Choice (190 lbs. down)....	8.75-13.50	7.50-11.00	7.25-10.00
Culls to Common (190 lbs. down)....	6.00- 8.75	3.50- 7.50	4.00- 7.25
Medium to Choice (190 to 260 lbs.)....	5.00-13.25	5.50-10.50	4.75- 9.50
Medium to Choice (260 lbs. up).....	3.75- 8.50	4.00- 7.25	3.75- 7.25
Culls to Common (190 lbs. up).....	3.00- 8.50	3.00- 4.00	3.00- 6.00
FEEDERS AND STOCKERS—			
STEERS:			
Common to Choice (750 lbs. up)....	4.75- 7.75	5.00- 8.50	5.25- 8.00
Common to Choice (750 lbs. down)....	4.25- 7.50	4.25- 8.00	4.00- 7.50
Inferior (all weights).....	3.50- 4.25	3.00- 4.50	3.00- 4.00
COWS AND HEIFERS:			
Common to Choice.....	3.00- 5.00	2.50- 5.85	2.25- 5.50
CALVES:			
Common to Choice.....		3.50- 7.50	3.50- 7.00

HOGS

Top	\$10.10	\$ 9.65	\$ 9.60
Bulk of Sales.....	9.00-10.00	9.00- 9.60	8.60- 9.50
Heavy Weight, Medium to Choice.....	9.60-10.10	9.25- 9.60	9.10- 9.60
Medium Weight, Medium to Choice.....	9.65-10.10	9.40- 9.65	9.25- 9.60
Light Weight, Common to Choice.....	9.00-10.10	9.30- 9.60	8.85- 9.55
Light Lights, Common to Choice.....	7.50- 9.85	8.00- 9.35	8.00- 9.40
Packing Hogs, Smooth.....	8.65- 9.15	8.25- 8.40	8.65- 8.90
Packing Hogs, Rough.....	8.10- 8.65	8.00- 8.25	8.40- 8.65
Slaughter Pigs, Medium to Choice.....	6.50- 8.10	7.25- 8.25	
Feeder and Stocker Pigs, Com. to Ch....		6.75- 7.75	6.50- 7.50

SHEEP AND LAMBS

LAMBS:			
Medium to Prime.....	\$12.00-14.00	\$10.75-13.25	\$11.75-13.50
Culls and Common.....	8.25-12.00	7.00-10.75	8.00-11.75
YEARLING WETHERS:			
Medium to Prime.....	8.25-11.25	7.50-10.50	7.25-10.75
WETHERS:			
Medium to Prime.....	4.50- 8.25	5.00- 7.50	4.50- 7.00
EWES:			
Common to Choice.....	3.25- 6.50	3.00- 5.75	3.00- 5.75
Canners and Culls.....	1.00- 3.25	1.00- 3.00	1.00- 3.00
FEEDING LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice.....	11.25-13.25		10.25-12.75

EXPORTS STIMULATE HIDE TRADE

J. E. P.

GRADUAL, if barely perceptible, improvement in hide and leather conditions suggests that what has happened in wool is likely to be repeated in these commodities, especially if domestic cattle liquidation runs its course this year. Improvement has been due entirely to an unprecedented volume of hide exports, coupled with reduced imports and gradual liquidation of surplus leather stocks.

Not only have hide imports been curtailed, but there has been a marked increase in exports of domestic hides, drastically reducing available stocks. During the fiscal year ending June, 1924, exports of hides were 90,908,000 pounds—the highest on record and a gain of 333 per cent in quantity compared with the previous year, which was slightly below average volume. Cattle hides have gone abroad in unusually heavy volume, shipments during the year ending June, 1924, having been 72,172,000 pounds, or 544 per cent in excess of the previous year and 170 per cent over 1922. As the domestic hide take-off during the first six months of 1924 and all of 1923 was about normal, this movement indicated European requirements, and not an effort to liquidate an unusual domestic surplus.

Heavy European buying is attributable to the fact that prices on this side have been below European levels. Stocks of cattle hides on June 30 in this country were 24 per cent less than last November and 35 per cent less than a year ago. The quantity now on hand is about half that of the corresponding period of 1921.

For several years, owing to European conditions, the United States was required to absorb the world's surplus production of hides and skins. During the war we imported in one year 12,800,000 cattle hides, but during the fiscal year just ended imports dropped to 3,907,000 pieces—a decrease of 57 per cent in quantity, compared with the year ending June 30, 1923, and 41 per cent under the pre-war average. Exports have always been small in proportion to imports, but during the fiscal year just closed foreign trade has assumed an entirely different aspect.

There is an excellent prospect that the domestic leather trade will pick up. Tanners are now operating at approximately 40 per cent of capacity, whereas 75 per cent is normal. Shoe production is at low ebb at present, and stocks are small, making expansion probable.

European stocks of hides were substantially reduced during the war, and have never since been restored, which accounts for recent heavy buying in this country by England, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and Canada.

The slump in hide prices began in 1922; in 1923 heavy native steers at Chicago fell to 11½ to 11¾ cents in April and May. Since then the trend has been gradually upward. Early in September heavy native steers were quoted at 16 cents, Chicago; heavy native cows, at 15 cents; light native cows, at 14 cents; heavy Texas and butt-branded steers, at 14½ cents; light Texas and Colorado steers, at 13½ cents. These are quotations on packer hides, which are standard.

WOOL PRICES STIFFENING

J. E. P.

HAVING TALKED the wool market into a comatose condition for several months, with the obvious purpose of bagging the bulk of the 1924 clip at the lowest possible prices, bear effort has relaxed, and the market has assumed an air of relative, if not actual, prosperity. The textile situation has improved, and the labor atmosphere has been clarified. Foreign markets are buoyant, stocks of wool low, and the new scale of prices legitimate.

During the past month prices of raw wool have been strong, with a pronounced upward tendency both here and abroad. Ohio quarter-blood in the grease has advanced from 42 to 50 cents per pound; fine staple territory, from \$1.27 to \$1.37; scoured and fine medium clothing territory, from \$1.07 to \$1.25. At the new scale of prices, manufacturers have been free buyers, and the major portion of the 1924 clip has passed out of growers' hands. Keen demand has developed in South

America, and higher prices on new Australian wools are confidently predicted at impending sales. In anticipation of advances at London September sales, Bradford quotations have mounted sharply. Strength in foreign markets is due in large measure to prospective settlement of European economic disturbances.

Current and recent production of fabrics and clothing has been substantially less than at the corresponding period last year, which is not unfavorable, as it means small stocks in distributors' hands. Domestic mills have been consuming only about 1,700,000 pounds, grease-equivalent weight, per month, against 2,800,000 pounds a year ago and 3,400,000 pounds at the peak of activity in 1922. Obviously this low production cannot be continued indefinitely, and meanwhile clothing trade is getting onto a hand-to-mouth basis, which is always healthy.

While the United Kingdom, Germany, and Belgium have been taking their full quota of wool, this country has sharply contracted buying in foreign markets. During the first six months of 1924 the United States imported only 173,000,000 pounds, compared with 327,000,000 pounds during the corresponding period of 1923. British imports were practically the same as last year; Belgium bought somewhat more; while Germany secured 253,000,000 pounds, against 172,000,000 pounds last year.

This is reflected in domestic clothing production, which has been sharply contracted. While it is true that the public has been buying clothing sparingly and economically, dealers and distributors have also been engaged in clearing shelves and reducing stocks to minimum volume. How long this can be continued must be left to conjecture. Eventually the tide will turn.

DWINDLING BRITISH MARKET FOR AMERICAN FARM PRODUCTS

DECLINE IN EXPORTS of farm products from the United States to Great Britain is not due so much to lessened demand for these commodities as to competition from other food-exporting nations, says the Department of Agriculture. Most of the products which form the staples of our export trade with Great Britain are necessities which will be in practically constant demand regardless of economic conditions. Increased purchasing power, however, may tend to shift the demand of British consumers to the more expensive articles imported from other countries.

Few American food products, the department notes, command a premium on the score of quality. The British pay higher prices for Canadian wheat, Argentine corn, and Danish bacon and butter. The United States in the past has held its foreign markets by volume of production and low prices. If these markets are to be maintained, American producers will either have to continue to underbid their foreign competitors or improve the quality of their goods.

Great Britain used to be the best outlet for our surplus agricultural products. At the beginning of the century 75 per cent of her imports of beef and 50 per cent of her imports of wheat came from the United States. By 1913 American exports had been reduced to negligible quantities in the case of beef and to 13 per cent in the case of wheat. Then came the war years, with their abnormal stimulation of the demand for all food products. But since the armistice this demand has again rapidly dwindled. In 1923 the United States imported more beef than it exported, and furnished but 9 per cent of the wheat imported into Great Britain. Only in the case of hams and lard have we maintained our supremacy on the British market.

Summing up, the department holds that Great Britain in the future will continue to import pork products from the United States only so long as the price remains low.

TRADE REVIEW

TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FOR PAST FISCAL YEAR

IN OUR AUGUST ISSUE we gave the exports of meat products and grains from the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924. Below we present statistics showing exports and imports of live animals, wool, and hides and skins, as well as imports of meats and grains, for the same period, with comparisons for the year 1922-23. As will be seen, there was a notable decline in our imports of animals during the past year (43 per cent), of wool (54.5 per cent), and of hides and skins (46.5 per cent), while there was an increase in our exports of hides (333 per cent) and in our imports of grains (72.3 per cent):

LIVE ANIMALS

(Numbers)

EXPORTS

	1923-24	1922-23
Cattle	32,761	61,486
Swine	95,409	76,099
Sheep	8,852	15,791
Horses	11,693	8,641
Mules, asses, and burros.....	16,170	12,719
Totals	164,885	174,736

IMPORTS

	1923-24	1922-23
Cattle	154,736	251,887
Sheep	34,986	82,903
Horses	2,458	2,816
Totals	192,180	337,606

MEATS

(Pounds)

EXPORTS

(See August number, page 27.)

IMPORTS

	1923-24	1922-23
Beef and veal, fresh.....	25,144,335	32,480,509
Pork, fresh	1,217,753	997,965
Mutton and lamb	3,496,894	8,708,726
Meats, prepared	11,091,010	8,991,481
Other meats	1,483,048	2,340,097
Totals	42,433,040	53,518,778

WOOL

(Pounds)

EXPORTS

	1923-24	1922-23
Wool and mohair.....	465,094	450,806

IMPORTS

	1923-24	1922-23
Wool and mohair.....	239,122,359	525,472,657

HIDES AND SKINS

(Pounds)

EXPORTS

	1923-24	1922-23
Cattle hides	72,171,895	11,199,922
Calfskins	7,110,716	3,157,449
Sheep- and goatskins.....	1,806,642	973,984
Others	9,819,111	5,656,308
Totals	90,908,364	20,987,663

IMPORTS		
	1923-24	1922-23
Cattle hides	176,474,764	405,383,201
Buffalo hides	2,266,647	3,801,350
Kip and calfskins	40,603,488	66,519,671
Horse, colt, and ass hides	10,299,865	22,400,647
Sheep- and lambskins	61,469,916	86,375,619
Goat- and kidskins	65,880,839	89,401,096
Kangaroo and wallaby skins	1,256,345	1,151,703
Others	6,966,251	7,859,414
Totals	365,218,115	682,892,701

GRAINS (Bushels)

EXPORTS
(See August number, page 27.)

IMPORTS		
	1923-24	1922-23
Corn	227,704	137,529
Oats	4,244,047	293,208
Wheat	27,283,905	18,012,540
Totals	31,755,656	18,443,277

OUR FOREIGN TRADE IN JULY

JULY'S EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE from the United States not only were the smallest since February, 1922, but fell slightly below imports for the first time in a year. In the below table the figures for July are preliminary:

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Exports	\$276,739,000	\$302,186,027	\$2,366,468,000	\$2,247,745,214
Imports	276,819,000	287,435,769	2,126,504,000	2,375,053,669
Excess of exports	\$ *80,000	\$ 14,752,258	\$ 239,964,000	\$ *125,308,455

*Excess of imports.

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS IN JULY

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS, animal fats, and cereals for the month of July and the seven months ending July, 1924, as compared with the corresponding periods of the previous calendar year, were as below:

BEEF PRODUCTS (Pounds)

Articles	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Beef, fresh	155,900	197,339	1,455,665	2,065,914
Beef, pickled, etc.	1,620,286	2,060,608	11,531,058	13,162,028
Beef, canned	64,706	174,455	927,808	1,226,132
Oleo oil	8,729,024	5,688,843	55,509,594	58,459,316
Totals	10,569,916	8,121,245	69,424,125	74,913,390

PORK PRODUCTS (Pounds)

Articles	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Pork, fresh	1,821,647	3,491,676	19,621,899	26,870,508
Pork, pickled	2,367,275	3,376,188	17,174,029	22,554,427
Bacon	23,794,429	27,581,043	198,701,952	245,786,019
Hams and shoulders	29,974,619	36,683,186	219,211,082	216,448,571
Sausage, canned	212,425	194,970	2,176,386	1,743,214
Lard	86,705,655	69,478,452	615,531,190	618,786,170
Neutral lard	3,192,088	812,065	18,560,158	16,070,077
Lard compounds	495,656	659,221	3,845,425	4,552,215
Margarine	91,777	94,069	491,007	1,161,335
Totals	148,655,571	142,370,870	1,095,313,122	1,153,972,536

GRAINS (Bushels)

Articles	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
Wheat	4,048,516	8,843,214	26,054,788	50,589,931
Corn	506,466	1,129,641	15,119,167	36,743,730
Rye	1,306,448	3,328,284	9,652,223	24,819,687
Oats	18,719	142,848	204,158	2,406,275
Barley	1,054,012	816,159	4,602,156	5,138,747
Totals	6,934,161	14,260,146	55,632,492	109,698,370

FOREIGN PORK SITUATION

SLAUGHTERING AND MARKETING of hogs in the chief foreign producing countries—particularly Denmark, Germany, and Ireland—have been unusually heavy during the first six months of 1924, says the Department of Agriculture. Prices of pork products have been so low that producers have found it more profitable to reduce the number of hogs than to continue purchasing feedstuffs.

International trade in pork products since the beginning of the year reflects the condition of the market brought about by the large increase in slaughtering. Exports from the United States are considerably lower than exports during the first half of 1923. Lard and bacon are the two products in which the greatest decline has taken place. A decreased demand on the part of Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands has been chiefly responsible for the decreased exports of lard, while bacon exports have decreased because of the smaller purchases by Germany and the United Kingdom. While exports from the United States have decreased, those from Denmark show a large increase, thus reflecting the heavy production taking place in that country. Canada has also been increasing her shipments of bacon to the British market.

The increase in slaughtering in the chief foreign producing countries during 1923 has so reduced the hog supply as to bring about a gradual improvement in the prices offered for pork products. There are indications that the quantity of pork products in foreign markets during the next few months will not be so high as that available during 1923 and the early part of 1924. An important factor in the price increase is the expected diminution in hog production in the United States during the rest of the year.

MEXICAN CATTLE INDUSTRY REVIVING

THE CATTLE INTERESTS OF MEXICO are rapidly recovering from the depletion of ranch herds resulting from the long period of revolutions, says the *Wall Street Journal*. In northern Mexico especially the recuperation is being accomplished with giant strides. Ranches which three or four years ago were almost denuded of stock cattle are now back to normal conditions in their grazing herds. The calf crop this year has been unusually large, due to the favorable season. In restocking the ranches, many owners have given attention to improving the breed, with the result that the native long-horn stock is rapidly disappearing from the range. Many pure-bred Hereford bulls have been imported from the United States in the last two years.

The revival of the cattle industry is causing considerable activity in the sale of ranches to Americans, most of whom come from Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. Some of the larger Mexican ranch-owners have sold their properties at a sacrifice, to meet outstanding obligations which they were forced to incur during the long period of depression.

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FOREIGN

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALASIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, July 19, 1924.

SUCH EXPECTATIONS as cattlemen in the north entertained of obtaining a renewal of the beef-export bonus were finally dashed to the ground by the federal prime minister a fortnight back. In reply to a question, he then told members of the House of Representatives that, seeing that growers were this year obtaining better prices without the bounty than they did last year with it, the government could not approve of continuing the payment. This is perfectly true; and I will venture the opinion that few graziers in Queensland, at all events, really believed its continuance would be justified. Still, that is not to say that cattle-breeding and fattening in a large way in the north has yet been placed on a stable footing. This is obviously far from being the case; but graziers feel the time has come for them to help themselves, rather than look to the government for assistance.

As far as self-help is concerned, it is gradually and surely being brought home to those connected with the industry that the only hope for rehabilitation lies in improving management and breeding, and lessening the cost of production. It is a hard lesson to learn, but will have to be absorbed if Australia is going successfully to compete with other countries in the oversea markets. With regard to management and breeding, it is pretty generally acknowledged that those runs which use a good stamp of bull, and are cut up into relatively small paddocks, so that the stock is accustomed to being handled more or less from birth, are able to turn off beasts that are little, if at all, inferior to those of any other country. It is the wild, mongrel type that wastes away on the road, and knocks itself about in the yards and trucks, that is unprofitable to grower and packer alike. Despite the prevailing depression, I know of certain large cattle holdings in Queensland that have made quite good profits the last two years by adopting proper methods of handling and attention to the stock. On the other hand, there are others in the same districts that are said to be in deep financial trouble.

Packers operating in the south and central divisions of Queensland are at present buying on the basis of \$5 to \$5.30 per 100 pounds, dressed weight, for the best-grade bullocks, and about \$4.55 or lower for seconds. Thus a run of fairly good cattle are averaging just about \$33.60 a head, delivered at the works. It would probably cost \$4.80 a head, on the average, for freight, etc.; so the net return to the grower is probably \$28.80. Certainly this is not a great deal, but cattle can be produced at that rate on natural pastures, if the rent is not too high. I may add that the native grasses of Queensland in a normal season will fatten cattle every bit as well as alfalfa. The condition may not go on quite so quickly, but when there the fat is firmer and "stays put" longer.

The buying basis in north Queensland is up to \$4.55 per 100 pounds for firsts and about \$3.60 for seconds, delivered. The main reason for it being lower there than in the south is that the quality is not present.

Although the federal government has refused to continue the export bounty on frozen beef, it has decided to pay growers a bonus of \$2.40 a head on live cattle shipped from the Com-

monwealth. This is a continuance of the policy adopted a couple of years ago, and is intended to assist growers in the Northern Territory and far northwest who are unable to send their cattle to any freezing-works. I think I mentioned in a previous letter that Vestey Brothers have entered into a contract for the supply of some eight or ten thousand head to a buyer in Manila. All breeders in the territory are being given the opportunity of sharing in this business, and the extra \$2.40 granted by the government will be very acceptable. Apart from the Manila contract, a small trial shipment of about 100 bullocks was made from the far north last month to Hongkong, and, now that the embargo consequent to the outbreak of rinderpest has been removed, cargoes will probably shortly be going to Java again. I believe the cost of these shipments is high, and the price realized at the other end pretty low, so that the grower does not receive much for his produce. It is probably not more than \$14.40 a head net, and the best that can be said for it is that it is better than nothing.

Generally speaking, feed conditions are fair to good throughout the Commonwealth. Most of the northwest is dry, and the same applies to a large slice of the center of the continent. Elsewhere there is sufficient grass for present needs, although a good soaking rain would be welcome in most districts. Judging by the numbers of fat stock marketed in the southern state capitals the last couple of weeks, there is an undercurrent of uncertainty as to how the spring is going to turn out. The yardings have been extra heavy for this time of the year, and values have dropped somewhat. Still there is not much to complain of in current prices. Prime beef is fetching from \$6.70 to \$8.65 per 100 pounds, dressed weights, in the Melbourne yards, and nearly as much in Sydney.

Live-stock returns for the three eastern states, recently published, show material decreases in both cattle and sheep numbers. The total head of each in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria at the beginning of 1924 were approximately 10,513,000 cattle and 50,660,000 sheep, as compared with 11,850,000 cattle and 64,340,000 sheep twelve months previously. The unfavorable climatic conditions prevailing during a good deal of 1922 and 1923 mainly account for the falling-off, although the lack of profitable markets is doubtless responsible to some extent for the decrease in cattle. There has for some time past been a tendency to restrict breeding operations on cattle runs in the north, but, now that prices seem to be improving, owners will allow their herds to increase again.

New Zealand reports further heavy rains in the North Island, with floods. Conditions in the south range from fair to very good. There has been a moderate amount of snow on the highlands, but, taking the country all through, stock is wintering well. Cattle prices continue firm, without any sensational features. The best fat bullocks are selling on the basis of \$8.15 to \$9.10 per 100 pounds, dressed. This is, of course, for local consumption. As a matter of fact, little killing for export has been done for the last couple of months. The lamb season practically closed the beginning of this month, and all the packing-houses, with perhaps one or two exceptions, are now shut down.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN LANDS

France Removes Ban on Fresh Pork

The prohibition against importation of American frozen fresh pork into France, temporarily suspended, has been definitely abrogated.

Argentina to Expand Meat Trade

Efforts are being made by the Argentine government to increase the exports of meat. Attention is at present centered on continental Europe as a possible market.

ENGLISH LIVE-STOCK LETTER

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

[Special Correspondence to *The Producer*]

LONDON, August 19, 1924.

WE ARE NOW approaching the fall, and most of us feel as if summer had somehow been cut out this year. Very rarely do we get a single day consistently sunny or even warm. The comparative coolness of the alleged summer has naturally had an important bearing upon the meat trade, and consequently upon the live-stock industry, assuring a fairly steady demand at a time when normally something in the nature of a slump might be expected. There is still a little foot-and-mouth disease about, and in counties as wide apart as Buckinghamshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Kent, and Wiltshire; but the disease is now well in hand, and will probably be exterminated at an early date.

Since my last letter, increased supplies of fat cattle have been marketed at most centers. Stall-fed cattle, however, are now scarce, and, with some of the grass-fed beasts lacking finish, the general standard of quality has not been high. All the best finished cattle are firm in price, the few box-fed beasts coming forward at markets in the eastern counties of England selling at high figures; but the general tone of the market is rather quiet, although average quotations show little change. The average rates for first- and second-quality cattle (reckoning \$4.52=£1) are \$3.11 and \$2.79, respectively, per stone of 14 pounds, and the cows average \$2.26 per stone.

Sheep and lambs have lately been more numerous. Nice handy-weight sheep sell readily, and although heavy sheep and ewes meet rather a slow sale at some centers, yet prices are generally firmly held. First-quality Downs and cross-breeds average 34 cents and ewes 22½ cents per pound. Many of the lambs are now too heavy, and prices, with ample supplies available, are moving downwards, first-quality lambs now averaging 38½ cents per pound.

There are still fair numbers of hogs at the English markets, and trade shows little variation, baconers selling in some cases at a slight reduction, and porkers again tending to advance in price. The average rates for best baconers and porkers are now \$2.39 and \$2.47, respectively, per 14-pound stone, while sows average \$1.64 per stone. There is a keen demand for well-fed calves for killing at prices up to 27½ cents per pound.

Recent marketings of dairy cattle have shown a better proportion of good-class cows, which sell readily, while aged cows are difficult to sell. In-calf young cows and heifers, when near to calving, are eagerly competed for at higher prices. There is only a moderate demand for young store cattle, but heifers suitable for breeding command high prices. Large consignments of stores are reported from both Canada and Ireland.

According to returns just issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, there are now in England and Wales 5,893,500 cattle, as compared with 5,823,000 this time last year. The figures for the different descriptions are as under:

	1924	1923
Cows and heifers in milk.....	2,013,900	1,974,600
Cows in calf, but not in milk	281,500	269,000
Heifers in calf.....	367,300	371,200
Other cattle—		
Two years and above.....	987,000	1,018,500
One year and under two..	1,084,100	1,108,200
Under one year.....	1,159,700	1,081,500

The total number of sheep returned is 14,843,000—an increase on last year's total of over a million, about equally divided between ewes for breeding and lambs, the number of other sheep showing relatively little change. Hogs show a total of 3,227,000, this being the first time that the 3,000,000

mark has been reached. The increase on last year's total is no less than 615,000. The number of sows kept for breeding is also the largest recorded since this class was first distinguished separately in the returns in 1893.

One of the hopes of bringing chilled, as distinct from frozen, beef from Australia and New Zealand to this country in a wholesome and palatable condition is nipped in the bud by an interim report of a departmental committee appointed by the Ministry of Health to consider the broad question of food preservatives. This interim report deals solely with a process associated with the name of Joseph A. Linley, who claims to be able to give chilled beef such additional treatment as to keep it long enough to be transported from the Antipodes and marketed in Great Britain. At present the only chilled beef that has any sale in our markets is that from South America, with fitful supplies from Canada. This beef keeps sound and sweet because of the shorter voyage, and it is, of course, marketed without delay. Against such beef Australia and New Zealand frozen beef has no chance, except at ridiculous prices.

Mr. Linley's idea is to take the best Australian and New Zealand beef, chill it over there, and then subject it to a treatment which involves the use of a minute quantity of formaldehyde. Recently he brought over from New Zealand an experimental consignment of meat treated by his process, and it was condemned on arrival. He ascribed the failure of the experiment to several causes, the chief of which were that the cattle had not been properly slaughtered, that sufficient care was not taken in the subsequent dressing and handling of the carcasses, that the meat had not been properly hung, and that the fan for circulating the air in the hold of the ship had not been working effectively.

The departmental committee thus concludes its report:

"Having regard to all the information which has been given to us, we are of opinion that no exception in favor of the Linley process should be made from our general condemnation of the use of formaldehyde in any article of food and drink. We therefore recommend that the treatment of meat with formaldehyde or any of its derivatives should be specifically prohibited."

BRITISH IMPORTS OF FROZEN MEATS

THE EXTENT of the frozen-meat import trade and its relation to the domestic live-stock industry of Great Britain are thus described in a recent article in the *North British Agriculturist*:

"That the frozen-meat trade is a gigantic and growing concern is generally well known, but few perhaps realize its actual magnitude. An International Congress of Refrigeration has been sitting in London, and some of the figures and statistics disclosed in the course of these proceedings are almost staggering. Britain has 328 steamers specially fitted for carrying refrigerated cargoes, ten other vessels are being built for the trade, and, counting in the Australian Commonwealth steamers engaged in the same business, the total refrigerated carrying capacity in empire-owned merchant ships is nearly 72,000,000 cubic feet.

"Such immense facilities for conducting the trade at once suggest the undoubted fact that the demand for imported meat in this country must be rapidly growing. This growth is due to the vast improvement in the quality of the incoming meat, due again to the improvement in the quality and character of foreign and colonial live stock, as the result partly of grading up by live-stock imports from this country. Hence the vital importance of letting nothing stand in the way of our conserving the interests of our pedigree stock-breeding industry. And, despite the vast carrying capacity indicated, the extent of Great Britain's cold-storage accommodation is evidently ample. Glasgow alone has no less than 2,577,000 cubic feet of cold-storage space, the total for Great Britain being 38,322,000 cubic feet—equivalent to about 768,000 tons of meat stowed in the ordinary way.

"The lesson to be gathered from these figures, and the admittedly improving character of foreign and colonial meat

imports, is that the home producer must see to it that the standard of his finished product is not only maintained, but improved, if he is to retain his hold on the fancy of the consumer."

BREEDING BACON PIGS IN GREAT BRITAIN

TO SAVE for the home industry some of the many millions which the British consumer is now expending for foreign—principally Danish—bacon, a special effort is being made by the Ministry of Agriculture to stimulate the desire of the farmers of Great Britain to improve the quality of their bacon pigs. A pamphlet has been issued, entitled "The Bacon Pig," in which it is stated that "the ministry is convinced that the rearing of pigs offers one of the most remunerative opportunities open to the British farmer, and is still capable of great expansion." The ideal bacon pig, according to this pamphlet, should conform to the following standard, which we quote for the benefit of our own swine-growers:

(1) Back—Long and level, with ribs well sprung. (2) Sides—Level and moderately deep. (3) Hams—Broad, wide, and deep to hock; tail set high. (4) Belly and flank—Thick, with straight underline. (5) Shoulder—Light, and on a line with forelegs below and with sides laterally; free from wrinkles and coarseness. (6) Flank—Aligned with sides. (7) Head, neck, and jaw—Light. (8) Legs—Short and set wide apart; the pig should stand well up on the tips of the toes. (9) Bone—Fine. (10) Flesh—Firm, without excessive fat. (11) Skin—Free from coarseness and wrinkles. (12) Hair—Fine.

LIVE STOCK IN BRAZIL

FROM THE REPORT of L. B. Burk and E. Z. Russell, commissioners of agriculture sent out by the Department of Agriculture to study the chances for expanding our trade in live stock with the countries of South America, we quote the following extracts concerning conditions in Brazil:

"The beef-cattle business in Brazil is very important, and differs from cattle-raising in either Uruguay or Argentina. Generally speaking, the quality of the cattle in Rio Grande do Sul is very good, resembling in that respect those in the northern part of Uruguay. The farther north one goes, however, the more inferior is the quality, except in the state of Sao Paulo.

"There is considerable swamp land in the northern part, and in other regions the land is too rough to cultivate successfully. Nearly all of it, however, produces an abundance of good grass suitable for cattle, sheep, or goats.

"The breeds which seem to give best results are Hereford, Shorthorn, Angus, Holstein, and the Zebu. The Herefords and Shorthorns come largely from Uruguay, Argentina, and England; the Holsteins, from the United States and Holland; the Zebus, from East India.

"The type of the Caracu, or native, breed of cattle is very similar to that of our best beef cattle in the United States; but one sees very few pure-breeds of this breed in passing through the country. We were told that the Caracu would withstand ticks and drought as well as the Zebu.

"The Zebu is an animal that is more hardy and appears to withstand the pests and droughts better than our native breeds, and is quite generally used throughout Brazil. It withstands tick fever, the berne fly, and feed shortages especially well, and sires a high percentage of calves. This, by many Brazilians, is considered much more important than to produce fewer animals of better type and quality.

"There are a number of conditions one should consider when undertaking to develop an export cattle trade with Brazil. A permanent trade cannot be established unless the live stock purchased by Brazilian farmers will live and give good results. The cattle tick, hot weather, berne fly (warbles), and foot-and-mouth disease must all be reckoned with. The ticks, which produce a fever and are constantly sucking blood from the animal, are perhaps the greatest drawback to the industry. The fact that all animals from tick-free territory must pass through this tick fever prevents many cattle-producers from using bulls of our native breeds. Cattle must be under two years of age to live through this fever; the younger the animal, the smaller is the percentage of loss. On the other hand, the hot weather, change of feed and climate, berne fly, together with the tick fever and the small amount of attention live stock usually re-

ceives, are very severe on young animals. The Brazilian Department of Agriculture is continually working to find a method of successfully immunizing cattle against this fever, and they report that when the animal is not over two years of age they are usually successful. If they succeed in perfecting their methods, so that the loss is practically eliminated, then large numbers of Herefords, Angus, Shorthorns, and Holsteins will doubtless be imported into Brazil."

NOTES FROM FOREIGN LANDS

Peru to Have Packing Plant

A contract has been signed between the Peruvian government and an American citizen for the erection and operation of a combined meat-packing plant and stock-yard at Lima.

Increased Slaughter in Uruguay

During the year ending July 31, 1923, the Uruguayan meat-packing plants and salting-houses slaughtered 924,500 head of cattle, as compared with 631,900 head during the previous year.

France Increases Consumption of Frozen Meat

Imports of frozen meat (principally beef from Argentina) into France during 1923 increased 50 per cent. Exclusive of 25,000 tons for the army, such imports are now estimated at 40,000 tons annually.

Increasing Production of British Sheep

A movement is on foot to increase the number of sheep in Great Britain, which is still 24 per cent lower than in 1909. The matter has been taken up with the government and several national organizations.

Restoration of German Import Duties

It is proposed to restore pre-war custom duties on certain articles of food imported into Germany, including live cattle, hogs, sheep, meat, bacon, potatoes, and all cereals. At present these articles go in free.

European Wheat Harvest

Ten European countries report a wheat production 16 per cent under that of last year. On the other hand, India's crop is larger than expected, and over 20,000,000 bushels will be available for export from that country.

Canadian Meat Exports and Imports

Total value of meats exported from Canada during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1924, was \$22,504,357, against \$28,244,644 during the previous year. Imports for the same period were valued at \$7,129,969, compared with \$9,347,701 in 1922-23.

Live Stock in France

On December 31, 1923, there were the following numbers of live stock in France, which, as will be seen, still fall below the 1913 figures (Alsace-Lorraine is included for both years):

	1923	1913
Cattle	13,749,000	15,338,000
Sheep	9,925,000	16,174,000
Swine	5,406,000	7,529,000

Australia Trying Out Meat-Drying Process

To relieve their meat industry, threatened by South American competition, Australia and New Zealand are reported to be trying out a special process for drying and grinding beef into a meat flour said to keep indefinitely and to contain all the body-building and nutritive value of fresh meat. Its cost will permit easy retailing. The meat is not cooked, but is dried at a very low temperature, all that is lost during the process being about 60 per cent of water and the deterrent properties.

ROUND THE RANGE

CONDITION OF RANGE AND LIVE STOCK IN AUGUST

Continuation of the dry weather over most of the western territory had caused a further deterioration of ranges and pastures at the time the August report of the Division of Crop and Live-Stock Estimates was issued. Especially severe had been the effects of the drought in Arizona, California, and Nevada. On the other hand, conditions had improved slightly in Idaho, western Nebraska, and New Mexico. In the greater part of the range country there was still sufficient feed, but rain was badly needed.

By states, condition on August 1, as expressed by figures representing percentages of normal, was given as below for range, cattle, and sheep—in that order:

Arizona, 79, 85, 90; California, 51, 84, 84; Colorado, 87, 93, 96; Idaho, 68, 81, 88; Kansas (western), 82, 90, —; Montana, 93, 101, 102; Nebraska, 91, 93, —; Nevada, 58, 75, 75; New Mexico, 87, 89, 94; North Dakota, 88, 90, 91; Oklahoma, 78, 92, —; Oregon, 61, 79, 85; South Dakota, 90, 98, 97; Texas, 81, 86, 87; Utah, 73, 76, 82; Washington, 74, 78, 90; Wyoming, 91, 98, 104.

WESTERN MARKETINGS DURING LATTER HALF OF YEAR

Reports from the various western states indicate that around half a million fewer head of cattle will be marketed

from that section during the latter half of 1924 than in the corresponding period last year, says the Department of Agriculture. The number to be shipped this year is estimated at 4,300,000, against 4,800,000 a year ago. In the region west of the Continental Divide, however, where severe drought conditions have prevailed and feed is scarce, the number of cattle expected to be moved to market is greater than in 1923.

Western sheep and lambs to be shipped are estimated to number about 775,000 more than last year—or 7,115,000 head compared with 6,340,000. This increase is due to two factors: a larger lamb crop and the feed situation in the far-western states.

PRODUCTIVITY PER ACRE IN AMERICA AND EUROPE

Europe's superior productivity per acre is more than offset by the superiority of the United States in productivity per man, according to a recent study by the Department of Agriculture, based on pre-war conditions. One cause of this situation is apparently the fact that in the past abundance of land and the relative scarcity of labor in this country have made it more important to economize labor than land. As the position changes with the growth of population and increased pressure on land resources, more emphasis will have to be placed on productivity per acre.

Four European countries—the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Belgium—in the five-year period just before the war had a combined average yield of wheat per acre exceeding that of the United States by 61.22 per cent, and an average production per acre for seven important crops about 41 per cent greater than the yield of those crops in the United States. On the other hand, the United States heavily exceeded the four countries named in the yield for each person directly employed in agriculture. For the same five-year period the crop yield per person in the United States was 159 per cent greater than in the European countries mentioned.

How the labor cost in Europe compared with that in the United States is indicated by the following table, which shows for the period just preceding the World War the approximate number of persons employed in agriculture per thousand acres of crop land (excluding wild hay):

Italy	235
Germany	160
France	120
England and Wales.....	105
Scotland	60
United States.....	41

These figures, however, do not give an entirely satisfactory idea of relative differences in the use of farm labor. To some extent the contrasts indicate differences in the character of the crops. Thus in Italy the large amount of labor used is partly due to the growing of intensive crops, like silk, wine, olives, and citrus fruits. On the other hand, American agriculture makes a much greater use of work animals.

Interest in the crop yields of Europe lies chiefly in their value as an index of possible increased production in the United States. It is doubted if this country, with its large area of semi-arid land, could reach as high an average production per acre as is achieved in Great Britain and Germany. Nevertheless, there is room for vast improvement. The department's experts estimate that, when economic conditions justify the necessary increased cost of production, it will be possible to increase the output per acre of ten important crops by something over 45 per cent.

CUT RATES FOR RETURN OF NEW MEXICO CATTLE

A reduction of 35 per cent in freight rates has been announced by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway for the transportation of New Mexico cattle, now on Mexican ranges, back to their home state. These cattle, it will be remembered, were sent into Mexico by the War Finance Corporation during the drought

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THE INTER-MOUNTAIN LIVE-STOCK MARKET

of 1922-23. About 34,000 head are still there. Of these, 7,000 are ready for market, and the remaining 27,000 are to be returned.

PRECAUTIONS IN CASTRATING PIGS

Ordinarily the castration of young pigs is a simple operation, and one which many farmers know how to perform. There are precautions to observe, however, which should be given more careful consideration than is ordinarily done, declares the Department of Agriculture.

In order that young pigs may continue to gain after the operation, they should be castrated at a time which will allow the wound to heal before weaning. At such age pigs are easily handled, the operation is conveniently performed, and perfect healing is facilitated through their being nourished and protected by the sow. Complications, with attending stunting of growth, are not liable to occur at this age.

When possible, cool days should be selected for the operation, and cold, damp weather avoided. The pigs should be kept on a light diet for the preceding twenty-four hours. A thorough washing of the scrotum with a non-irritating antiseptic solution, or cleaning with soap and water, is a part of the operation which should not be neglected.

SMALL CATTLE RANCH THE MORE EFFICIENT

The "family-size" cattle ranch—that is, a ranch of the size to utilize the labor of the ranchman and his family—is more efficient than the very large ranch, and the present tendency in ranching is toward a family-size ranching business, says the Department of Agriculture. Advantages of the family-size ranch are that it maintains a highly efficient utilization of labor, and does not have its net profits reduced by the hiring of additional labor on an extensive scale. But, though the small ranch is the most efficient, it is not followed in order of efficiency by the ranch a little larger. On the contrary, second place is held by the largest ranches. These have a lower calf crop than the family-size ranches, but they can materially overcome this handicap by more efficient use of feed and labor, due to the fact that one man can handle 500 to 1,000 cattle practically as easily as he can care for 200.

Another important influence in determining the profitability or unprofitability of ranching is the manner in which the rancher holds his grazing land. Generally the man who leases a good share of his land has an advantage over ranchmen who own most of their land. His



Telephone Toll Messages Now Free From Federal Tax

THE federal taxes laid on telephone toll messages by the Revenue Act of 1921 have been removed by the Revenue Act of 1924, which was enacted on June 2, and became effective as regards these taxes on July 2. Under the act of 1921, the taxes imposed on telephone messages were as follows:

On a telephone message for which the charge was more than fourteen cents and not more than fifty cents a tax of..... 5 cents

On a telephone message for which the charge was more than fifty cents, a tax of 10 cents

These taxes were highest in proportion to the charge for service for toll messages over moderate distances, the tax in some cases amounting to one-third of the toll charge.

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taxes and repair costs per calf are much lower. Gross cost of producing calves on fifteen ranches southwest of Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1922, varied from \$22.55 to \$61.75 a head. The lowest-cost range was operated by a man who leased all his land, and had no taxes or repair expense on equipment or improvement. The high-cost ranch had \$58.09 of its total investment in deeded land. Experts in the department say that the handicap of a large charge for land is difficult to over-

come, especially if the land is operated on borrowed capital.

This is brought out by a detailed study of the operating cost of producing a calf on the fifteen ranches. "Operating cost" means cost of labor, taxes, depreciation of equipment, feed, salt, etc. It does not include any allowance for rent, interest, or payment for the labor of the operator. In 1920 the average operating cost of producing a calf from these ranches was \$25.52; in 1921 the cost was \$18.41; in 1922 it was \$19.25. These costs, if the ranches had not been burdened with high charges for land and interest, would have meant a good profit on the animals. But the gross cost was increased, by amounts representing rent and interest either paid or on the operator's investment, to a total in 1920 of \$54.10, in 1921 of \$41.11, and in 1922 of \$40.37. The figures show how land charges and interest payments affected the price necessary to make ranch cattle profitable. High production costs, in other words, are largely due to the fact that each calf carries a heavy charge for interest on indebtedness. It is pointed out by the department that the fixed charges on cattle ranches represent actual money payments which the rancher must make on a specified date if he is not to undergo forced liquidation. Relief for mortgaged ranchmen would therefore be obtained better through an increase in the prices of what they sell than through a lowering of the prices of what they buy.

Frequently the amount of capital needed to operate the average cattle ranch is underestimated. Capital in improved land usually represents the largest single item. The next largest item is in the productive live stock or the breeding herd. The total investment of the fifteen ranches varied in 1922 from \$42,265 in the case of an operator grazing cattle over 7,500 acres, to \$642,686 in the case of a ranch outfit grazing 64,592 acres. Only five of the ranches had a total investment of less than \$100,000. The average land indebtedness was \$3.50 an acre of deeded land. It took a capital investment of \$31,770 to produce 100 calves.

Cattle-producers on the fifteen ranches made no profits in 1922, but lost \$4.59 per head. On approximately 50 per cent of the calves produced in 1922, these ranchers received a price, at the ranch, of \$25.41. Their net cost of production per head, found by adding interest and rent actually paid to the operating cost, was \$30. Some well-managed ranches, however, achieved results in calf crops, in utilization of labor, and in keeping down costs that were considerably better than the average. The showing of these

exceptional ranches, nevertheless, is not considered hopelessly beyond the reach of the others.

THE DESTRUCTIVE CROW

There are estimated to be about 200,000,000 crows in the United States. If the figure of \$3.65 as the average amount of annual damage done by each of these birds is correct, this would amount to \$730,000,000—a sum almost equal to our yearly losses by fire. A questionnaire sent to farmers throughout the country developed the fact that about 90 per cent of them were suffering from the depredations of this rapacious and voracious thief and murderer, who not only destroys quantities of grain, vegetable seeds, and fruits, but is an enemy of the eggs and young of barnyard fowl, and in certain sections has developed a taste for meat that makes him attack and literally eat alive weak and run-down live stock. On a single farm in New England the eyes of more than 200 new-born lambs were picked out by crows, and in Oklahoma an entire litter of pigs was devoured. Some western cattle-raisers place it ahead of the coyote as a destroyer of stock. Besides, it has been proved that the crow is a carrier of the germs of foot-and-mouth disease, anthrax, and hog cholera.

The most damaging evidence against the crow, however, is its destruction of thousands upon thousands of our song and insectivorous birds. These it will pursue relentlessly, destroying their nests, gulping down their eggs, killing and swallowing their young ones. To every farmer and every lover of nature, this alone should be enough to doom it. The crow is not protected by the International Migratory Bird Treaty and is fair game for any man with a gun. In Nebraska this spring crow-killing clubs were organized, and many thousands had to sacrifice their lives.

THINKING IT THROUGH

This from Edwin T. Meredith, publisher of a farm magazine and formerly Secretary of Agriculture:

"In a store in New York recently I saw a girl buying a tube of Colgate's dental cream. I asked her at what work she was engaged. 'I am a stenographer,' she replied. 'Where?' 'Upstairs.' 'Are you interested in agriculture in Madison County, Iowa, or Texas?' 'I never saw a farm, and shouldn't know one if I did.' I went up to see the lawyer who employed her. 'Are you interested in agriculture?' 'Not a bit. I am employed by a bank. That takes all my time.' I went to the banker and asked: 'Are you interested in agriculture?' 'No, we have no farmers' deposits. We have no farmers' loans.' 'With whom do you do business?' 'Steel corporations largely.' I went to a

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steel corporation. 'Are you interested in agriculture?' 'Not a particle. We never sold a farmer a piece of steel. We only manufacture structural steel.' 'To whom did you sell your last order?' 'Bill Smith of Rock Island, Illinois.' I saw Bill Smith and said to him: 'Are you interested in agriculture?' 'Well, I should say so. We sell the farmer trucks and tires. We sell him wire fences, we sell him roofing, we sell him a thousand things, and we just bought structural steel last week to build a new unit to our factory.'

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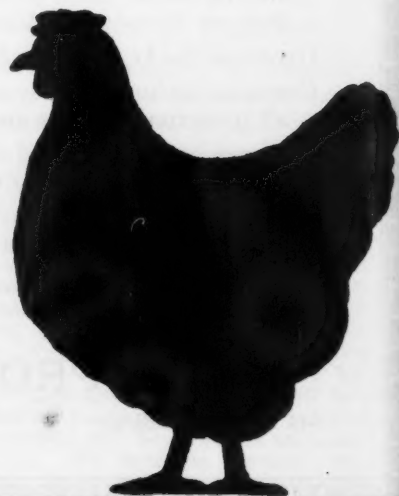
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